

CAPSTEAD MORTGAGE CORP  
Form S-3ASR  
January 20, 2015

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As filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission on January 20, 2015

Registration No. 333-\_\_\_\_\_

UNITED STATES

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

Washington, D.C. 20549

Form S-3

REGISTRATION STATEMENT

UNDER

THE SECURITIES ACT OF 1933

CAPSTEAD MORTGAGE CORPORATION

(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

Maryland

(State or jurisdiction of incorporation or organization)

75-2027937

(I.R.S. Employer Identification Number)

8401 North Central Expressway  
Suite 800

Dallas, Texas 75225-4410

(214) 874-2323

(Address including zip code, and telephone number,

including area code, of registrant's principal executive offices)

Phillip A. Reinsch

8401 North Central Expressway

Suite 800

Dallas, Texas 75225-4410

(214) 874-2323

(Name, address, including zip code, and telephone

number, including area code, of agent for service)

Copies to:

David Barbour

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1717 Main Street

Suite 3700

Dallas, Texas 75201

(214) 659-4400

Approximate date of commencement of proposed sale to the public: From time to time after the effective date of this Registration Statement.

If the only securities being registered on this Form are being offered pursuant to dividend or interest reinvestment plans, please check the following box.

If any of the securities being registered on this Form are to be offered on a delayed or continuous basis pursuant to Rule 415 under the Securities Act of 1933, other than securities offered only in connection with dividend or interest reinvestment plans, check the following box.

If this Form is filed to register additional securities for an offering pursuant to Rule 462(b) under the Securities Act, check the following box and list the Securities Act registration statement number of the earlier effective registration statement for the same offering.

If this Form is a post-effective amendment filed pursuant to Rule 462(c) under the Securities Act, check the following box and list the Securities Act registration statement number of the earlier effective registration statement for the same offering.



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If this Form is a registration statement pursuant to General Instruction I.D. or a post-effective amendment thereto that shall become effective upon filing with the Commission pursuant to Rule 462(e) under the Securities Act, check the following box:

If this Form is a post-effective amendment to a registration statement filed pursuant to General Instruction I.D. filed to register additional securities or additional classes of securities pursuant to Rule 413(b) under the Securities Act, check the following box:

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant is a large accelerated filer, an accelerated filer, a non-accelerated filer, or a smaller reporting company.

Large accelerated filer  Accelerated filer  Non-accelerated filer  Smaller reporting company

CALCULATION OF REGISTRATION FEE

Title of each class of securities to be registered*	Proposed maximum aggregate offering price	Amount of Registration Fee
Common Stock, \$0.01 par value per share, Preferred Stock, \$0.10 par value per share, Debt Securities, Warrants	(1)	(2)

(1) An indeterminate aggregate initial offering price or number of the securities of each identified class is being registered as may from time to time be offered at indeterminate prices. Separate consideration may or may not be received for securities that are issuable on exercise, conversion or exchange of other securities.

(2) In accordance with Rule 456(b) and 457(r), we are deferring payment of any registration fees for securities to be issued under this Registration Statement.

\* Pursuant to General Instruction IV.B. to Form S-3, additional securities (including securities to be issued by additional registrants) may be added by automatically effective post-effective amendments pursuant to Rule 413(b).

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PROSPECTUS  
COMMON STOCK  
PREFERRED STOCK  
DEBT SECURITIES  
WARRANTS

Capstead Mortgage Corporation intends to offer and sell from time to time the securities described in this prospectus.

We will provide the specific terms of any securities we may offer in a supplement to this prospectus. You should carefully read this prospectus and any applicable prospectus supplement before deciding to invest in these securities.

The securities may be offered directly, through agents designated by us from time to time, or through underwriters or dealers, on a continuous or delayed basis. We may make any sales of our common shares under this prospectus, if any, on or through the facilities of the New York Stock Exchange, to or through a market maker, or to or through an electronic communications network, at market prices prevailing at the time of sale, or in any other manner permitted by law (including, without limitation, privately negotiated transactions).

Our common stock is listed on the New York Stock Exchange under the symbol "CMO." On January 16, 2015, the last reported sale price of our common stock as reported was \$12.29 per share.

Investing in our securities involves risks. See "Risk Factors" beginning on page 1 of this prospectus for information regarding risks associated with an investment in our securities.

Neither the Securities and Exchange Commission nor any state securities commission has approved or disapproved of these securities or determined if this prospectus is truthful or complete. Any representation to the contrary is a criminal offense.

The date of this prospectus is January 20, 2015.

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You should rely only on the information contained or incorporated by reference in this prospectus. We have not authorized anyone else to provide you with different information. If anyone provides you with different or inconsistent information, you should not rely on it. An offer to sell these securities will not be made in any jurisdiction where the offer and sale is not permitted. You should assume that the information appearing in this prospectus, as well as information we previously filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission and incorporated by reference, is accurate as of the date on the front cover of this prospectus only. Our business, financial condition, results of operations and prospects may have changed since that date.

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ABOUT THIS PROSPECTUS

This prospectus is part of a shelf registration statement. We may sell, from time to time, in one or more offerings, any combinations of the securities described in this prospectus. This prospectus only provides you with a general description of the securities we may offer. Each time we sell securities under this prospectus, we will provide a prospectus supplement that contains specific information about the terms of the securities. The prospectus supplement may also add, update or change information contained in this prospectus. You should read both this prospectus and any prospectus supplement together with the additional information described under the heading “Where You Can Find More Information.”

WHERE YOU CAN FIND MORE INFORMATION

We file annual, quarterly and current reports, proxy statements and other documents with the Securities and Exchange Commission (the “SEC”) under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934. You may read and copy any materials that we file with the SEC without charge at the public reference room of the Securities and Exchange Commission, 450 Fifth Street, N.W., Room 1024, Washington, DC 20549. Information about the operation of the public reference room may be obtained by calling the SEC at 1-800-SEC-0330. Also, the SEC maintains an internet website that contains reports, proxy and information statements, and other information regarding issuers, including Capstead, that file electronically with the SEC. The public can obtain any documents that we file with the SEC at [www.sec.gov](http://www.sec.gov).

We also make available free of charge on or through our internet website ([www.capstead.com](http://www.capstead.com)) our Annual Report on Form 10-K, Quarterly Reports on Form 10-Q, Current Reports on Form 8-K, and, if applicable, amendments to those reports filed or furnished pursuant to Section 13(a) of the Exchange Act as soon as reasonably practicable after we electronically file such material with, or furnish it to, the SEC.

This prospectus is part of a registration statement on Form S-3 that we filed with the SEC. This prospectus does not contain all of the information set forth in the registration statement and exhibits and schedules to the registration statement. For further information with respect to our company and our securities, reference is made to the registration statement, including the exhibits and schedules to the registration statement. Statements contained in this prospectus as to the contents of any contract or other document referred to in this prospectus are not necessarily complete and, where that contract is an exhibit to the registration statement, each statement is qualified in all respects by reference to the exhibit to which the reference relates.

INCORPORATION OF INFORMATION BY REFERENCE

The SEC allows us to “incorporate by reference” the information we file with them, which means that we can disclose important information to you by referring you to other documents that we file with the SEC. These incorporated documents contain important business and financial information about us that is not included in or delivered with this prospectus. The information incorporated by reference is considered to be part of this prospectus, and later information filed with the SEC will update and supersede this information.

We incorporate by reference the documents listed below and any future filings we make with the SEC under Section 13(a), 13(c), 14 or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 until the offering of securities covered by this prospectus is complete:

- our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2013;
- our Quarterly Reports on Form 10-Q for the quarters ended March 31, 2014, June 30, 2014 and September 30, 2014; and
- our Current Reports on Form 8-K filed with the SEC on February 3, 2014, May 30, 2014, and January 6, 2015.



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You may obtain copies of these documents at no cost by writing or telephoning us at the following address:

Investor Relations  
Capstead Mortgage Corporation  
8401 N. Central Expressway, Suite 800  
Dallas, Texas 75225  
(214) 874-2323

A WARNING ABOUT FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS

This prospectus contains “forward-looking statements” within the meaning of the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995. Forward-looking statements include, without limitation, any statement that may predict, forecast, indicate or imply future results, performance or achievements, and may contain the words “believe,” “anticipate,” “expect,” “estimate,” “intend,” “will be,” “will likely continue,” “will likely result,” or words or phrases of similar meaning. Forward-looking statements are based largely on the expectations of management and, as discussed in our filings with the SEC, are subject to a number of risks and uncertainties including, but not limited to, the following:

- changes in general economic conditions;
- fluctuations in interest rates and levels of mortgage prepayments;
- the effectiveness of risk management strategies;
- the impact of differing levels of leverage employed;
- liquidity of secondary markets and credit markets;
- the availability of financing at reasonable levels and terms to support investing at current leverage levels;
- the availability of new investment capital;
- the availability of suitable qualifying investments from both an investment return and regulatory perspective;
  - changes in legislation or regulation affecting Fannie Mae, Freddie Mac, Ginnie Mae and similar federal government agencies and related guarantees;
- other changes in legislation or regulation affecting the mortgage and banking industries;
- changes in market conditions as a result of Federal Reserve monetary policy or federal government fiscal challenges;
- deterioration in credit quality and ratings of existing or future issuances of Fannie Mae, Freddie Mac or Ginnie Mae securities; and
- increases in costs and other general competitive factors.

In addition to the above considerations, actual results and liquidity are affected by other risks and uncertainties which could cause actual results to be significantly different from those expressed or implied by any forward-looking statements included herein. It is not possible to identify all of the risks, uncertainties and other factors that may affect future results. In light of these risks and uncertainties, the forward-looking events and circumstances discussed herein may not occur and actual results could differ materially from those anticipated or implied in the forward-looking



statements. Forward-looking statements speak only as of the date the statement is made, and we undertake no obligation to update or revise any forward-looking statements, whether as a result of new information, future events or otherwise. Accordingly, readers of this document are cautioned not to place undue reliance on any forward-looking statements included herein.

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OUR COMPANY

We are a self-managed real estate investment trust, or REIT, formed in 1985 and based in Dallas, Texas. We earn income from investing in a leveraged portfolio of short-duration residential adjustable-rate mortgage pass-through securities, referred to as ARM securities, issued and guaranteed by government-sponsored enterprises, either Fannie Mae or Freddie Mac, together the GSEs, or by an agency of the federal government, Ginnie Mae. Residential mortgage pass-through securities guaranteed by the GSEs or Ginnie Mae are referred to as Agency Securities and are considered to have limited, if any, credit risk, because of federal government support for the GSEs.

This strategy differentiates us from our peers because ARM loans underlying our investment portfolio can reset to more current interest rates within a relatively short period of time. This positions us to benefit from a potential recovery in financing spreads that typically contract during periods of rising interest rates and can result in smaller fluctuations in portfolio values compared to portfolios containing a significant amount of longer-duration ARM and fixed-rate mortgage securities. Duration is a common measure of market price sensitivity to interest rate movements and a shorter duration generally indicates less interest rate risk.

We and our qualified REIT subsidiaries have elected to be taxed as a REIT under the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended (the “Code”), and intend to continue to do so. As a result of this election, we and our qualified REIT subsidiaries are not taxed at the corporate level on taxable income distributed to stockholders, provided that certain REIT qualification tests are met. Certain of our affiliates, which may be consolidated with us for financial reporting purposes, may not be consolidated for federal income tax purposes because such entities may elect taxable REIT subsidiary tax status. All taxable income of any such taxable REIT subsidiaries would be subject to federal and state income taxes, where applicable.

Our principal executive offices are located at 8401 N. Central Expressway, Suite 800, Dallas, Texas 75225. Our telephone number is (214) 874-2323. Our website is <http://www.capstead.com>. The contents of our website are not a part of this prospectus. Our shares of common stock are traded on the New York Stock Exchange, or the “NYSE,” under the symbol “CMO.”

RISK FACTORS

An investment in our securities involves various risks. You should carefully consider the following risk factors in conjunction with the other information contained in this prospectus before purchasing our securities. The risks discussed herein can adversely affect our business, liquidity, operating results, financial condition and future prospects, causing the market price of our securities to decline, which could cause an investor to lose all or part of his/her investment. The risk factors described below are not the only risks that may affect us. Additional risks and uncertainties not presently known to us also may adversely affect our business, liquidity, operating results, prospects and financial condition.

Risks Related to Our Business

Monetary policy actions by the Federal Reserve could adversely affect our liquidity, financial condition and earnings. Over the last six years the Federal Reserve has employed a number of new policy initiatives, most notably the purchase of U.S. Treasury securities and Agency Securities. This expansion of the Federal Reserve’s balance sheet is often referred to as quantitative easing or QE. The policy goals of the QE initiatives have been to support the GSEs and the housing markets, and otherwise improve economic and labor market conditions by exerting downward pressure on longer term interest rates, including mortgage interest rates.

Under the last QE initiative that began in September 2012 (referred to as QE3), the Federal Reserve had been purchasing \$45 billion a month in long-term Treasury securities and \$40 billion a month in fixed-rate Agency

Securities, as well as replacing run off of existing holdings of fixed-rate Agency Securities. In December 2013 the Federal Reserve announced that beginning in January 2014 it was reducing purchases of Treasuries and Agency Securities by \$5 billion each and ceased buying additional Treasury and Agency Securities after its October 2014 meeting, while continuing to replace portfolio runoff until after it begins raising short-term interest rates.

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In general, QE elevated pricing for Agency Securities resulting in declining yields on new purchases and lower mortgage interest rates, resulting in higher mortgage prepayment rates. Our net interest margins, and therefore earnings, have been adversely affected over time as existing, lower-cost portfolio is replaced with higher-cost, lower-yielding securities. See discussion below regarding the negative effects of higher mortgage prepayment levels.

With the Federal Reserve concluding its bond buying program and eventually allowing its existing holdings to begin running off, the risk is increasing that pricing for ARM Agency securities could be negatively affected as the buy-side support of such a large market participant is removed. In addition, should the Federal Reserve decide to eventually reduce its holdings of fixed-rate Agency Securities through asset sales, the pricing for all Agency Securities could decline. These actions could adversely affect our liquidity, earnings and book value per common share, as more fully described below.

Potential changes in the relationship between the federal government and the GSEs could adversely affect our liquidity, financial condition and earnings. Agency Securities are considered to have limited, if any, credit risk because the timely payment of principal and interest on these securities are guaranteed by the GSEs, or by Ginnie Mae, an agency of the federal government. Only the guarantee by Ginnie Mae is explicitly backed by the full faith and credit of the federal government. The high actual or perceived credit quality of Agency Securities allows us to finance our portfolio using repurchase arrangements with favorable interest rate terms and margin requirements that otherwise would not be available. As a result of deteriorating housing market conditions that began in 2007, the GSEs incurred substantial losses due to high levels of mortgagor defaults and in 2008 the Federal Housing Finance Agency placed the GSEs into conservatorship, allowing it to operate the GSEs without forcing them to liquidate. Additionally, the federal government, through the U.S. Treasury and the Federal Reserve, undertook other actions to provide financial support to these entities and the housing market including the acquisition of large holdings of Agency Securities. These and other steps taken by the federal government were designed to support market stability and mortgage availability at favorable rates in part by providing additional confidence to investors in Agency Securities.

It is anticipated that over the next several years U.S. policy makers will reach a consensus on what the long-term role of the federal government in general, and the GSEs in particular, will have in the housing markets. In this regard there have been numerous proposals put forth by members of Congress, the Treasury Department and regulators regarding GSE reform. The actual or perceived credit quality of Agency Securities could be adversely affected by market uncertainty over any legislative or regulatory initiatives that impact the relationship between the GSEs and the federal government. A significantly reduced role by the federal government or other changes in the guarantees provided by Ginnie Mae, the GSEs or their successors could adversely affect the credit profile and pricing of existing holdings and/or future issuances of Agency Securities and whether our strategy of holding a leveraged portfolio of Agency Securities remains viable, which could adversely affect earnings and book value per common share.

Failure of the federal government to periodically increase the U.S. Treasury's borrowing capacity while reducing future federal budget deficits could adversely impact our liquidity, financial condition and earnings. The increasing amount of outstanding federal debt relative to the size of the U.S. economy, particularly in light of projected growth in federal government spending and resulting federal budget deficits, have increased the possibility of further credit rating agency actions to downgrade the federal government's credit rating. This could eventually lead to a decline in the market's perception of the creditworthiness of the federal government. Because market participants rely on the federal government's continued support of the GSEs, the perception of credit risk associated with Agency Securities and, therefore, the pricing of existing holdings of Agency Securities could be adversely affected. In addition, these circumstances could create broader financial turmoil and uncertainty, which may weigh heavily on the global banking system and limit the availability and/or terms and conditions of borrowings under repurchase arrangements which could adversely impact our liquidity, earnings and book value per common share, as more fully described below.



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Legislative and regulatory actions could adversely affect the availability and/or terms and conditions of borrowings under repurchase arrangements and consequently, our liquidity, financial condition and earnings. In July 2010 the U.S. Congress enacted the Dodd Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act (“Dodd Frank”) in order to restrict certain business practices of systemically significant participants in the financial markets, which include many of our lending counterparties. Additionally, changes in regulatory capital requirements and other leverage constraints are being implemented worldwide. It remains unclear how significant of an impact Dodd Frank and changes in regulatory capital requirements will have on the financial markets in general and on our strategy of holding an appropriately hedged, leveraged portfolio of Agency Securities. However, it is possible that the availability and/or terms and conditions of borrowings under repurchase arrangements and related derivative financial instruments held for hedging purposes could be adversely affected which could adversely affect our liquidity, earnings and book value per common share, as more fully described below.

Government-supported mortgagor relief programs could adversely affect our liquidity, financial condition and earnings. U.S. policy makers have established programs designed to provide qualified homeowners with assistance in avoiding foreclosure or in qualifying for the refinancing of their existing mortgages, which typically entails the payoff of existing mortgages with any losses absorbed by the GSEs. A significant expansion of these mortgagor relief programs, as well as any future legislative or regulatory actions, could increase mortgage prepayments which could reduce the expected life of our residential mortgage investments; therefore, actual yields we realize on these investments could be lower due to faster amortization of investment premiums which could adversely affect earnings. A significant expansion of these programs also could adversely affect book value per common share because of the elimination of any unrealized gains on that portion of the portfolio that prepays. Additionally, heightened prepayment exposure due to the real or perceived potential for government intervention could adversely affect pricing for Agency Securities in general and, as a result, liquidity and book value per common share could be adversely affected due to declines in the fair value of our remaining portfolio.

An increase in prepayments may adversely affect our liquidity, financial condition and earnings. When short- and long-term interest rates are at nearly the same levels (i.e., a “flat yield curve” environment), or when long-term interest rates decrease, the rate of principal prepayments on mortgage loans underlying mortgage securities generally increases. Prolonged periods of high mortgage prepayments can significantly reduce the expected life of our portfolio of residential mortgage investments; therefore, actual yields we realize can be lower due to faster amortization of investment premiums, which could adversely affect earnings. High levels of mortgage prepayments can also lead to larger than anticipated demands on our liquidity from our lending counterparties, as more fully described below. Additionally, periods of high prepayments can adversely affect pricing for Agency Securities in general and, as a result, book value per common share can be adversely affected due to declines in the fair value of our remaining portfolio and the elimination of any unrealized gains on that portion of the portfolio that prepays.

Changes in interest rates, whether increases or decreases, may adversely affect our liquidity, financial condition and earnings. Our earnings depend primarily on the difference between the interest received on our residential mortgage investments and the interest paid on our related borrowings, net of the effect of derivatives held for hedging purposes. We finance our investments at 30- to 90-day interest rates. Coupon interest rates on only a portion of the ARM loans underlying our securities reset each month and the terms of these ARM loans generally limit the amount of any increases during any single interest rate adjustment period and over the life of a loan. Consequently, interest rates on related borrowings not effectively fixed through the use of interest rate swap agreements can rise to levels that may exceed yields on these securities in a rising short-term interest rate environment. This can contribute to lower, or in more extreme circumstances, negative financing spreads and, therefore, adversely affect earnings.

Because rising interest rates tend to put downward pressure on financial asset prices, we may be presented with substantial margin calls during such periods adversely affecting our liquidity. If we are unable or unwilling to pledge additional collateral, our lenders can liquidate our collateral, potentially under adverse market conditions, resulting in losses. At such times we may determine that it is prudent to sell assets to improve our ability to pledge sufficient

collateral to support our remaining borrowings, which could result in losses. In addition, lower pricing levels for remaining holdings of residential mortgage investments will lead to declines in book value per common share.

During periods of relatively low short-term interest rates, declines in the indices used to determine coupon interest rate resets for ARM loans may adversely affect yields on our ARM securities as the underlying ARM loans reset at lower rates. If declines in these indices exceed declines in our borrowing rates, earnings would be adversely affected.

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Periods of illiquidity in the mortgage markets may reduce amounts available to be borrowed under our repurchase arrangements due to declines in the perceived value of related collateral, which could adversely impact our liquidity, financial condition and earnings. We generally finance our residential mortgage investments by pledging them as collateral under uncommitted repurchase arrangements, the terms and conditions of which are negotiated on a transaction-by-transaction basis. The amount borrowed under a repurchase arrangement is limited to a percentage of the estimated market value of the pledged collateral and is specified at the inception of the transaction. The portion of the pledged collateral held by the lender that is not advanced under the repurchase arrangement is referred to as margin collateral and the resulting margin percentage is required to be maintained throughout the term of the borrowing. If the perceived market value of the pledged collateral as determined by our lenders declines, we may be subject to margin calls wherein the lender requires us to pledge additional collateral to reestablish the agreed-upon margin percentage. Because market illiquidity tends to put downward pressure on asset prices, we may be presented with substantial margin calls during such periods. If we are unable or unwilling to pledge additional collateral, our lenders can liquidate our collateral, potentially under adverse market conditions, resulting in losses. At such times we may determine that it is prudent to sell assets to improve our ability to pledge sufficient collateral to support our remaining borrowings, which could result in losses. In addition, lower pricing levels for remaining holdings of residential mortgage investments will lead to declines in book value per common share.

Periods of illiquidity in the mortgage markets may reduce the number of counterparties willing to lend to us and/or the amounts individual counterparties are willing to lend via repurchase arrangements, which could adversely affect our liquidity, financial condition and earnings. We enter into repurchase arrangements with numerous commercial banks and other financial institutions, both foreign and domestic, routinely with maturities of 30 to 90 days. Our ability to achieve our investment objectives depends on our ability to re-establish or roll maturing borrowings on a continuous basis and none of our counterparties are obligated to enter into new repurchase transactions at the conclusion of existing transactions. If a counterparty chooses not to roll a maturing borrowing, we must pay off the borrowing, generally with cash available from another repurchase arrangement entered into with another counterparty. If we determine that we do not have sufficient borrowing capacity with our remaining counterparties, we could be forced to reduce our portfolio leverage by selling assets under potentially adverse market conditions, resulting in losses. This risk is increased if we rely significantly on any single counterparty for a significant portion of our repurchase arrangements. An industry-wide reduction in the availability of borrowings under repurchase arrangements could adversely affect pricing levels for Agency Securities leading to further declines in our liquidity and book value per common share. Under these conditions, we may determine that it is prudent to sell assets to improve our ability to pledge sufficient collateral to support our remaining borrowings, which could result in losses. In addition, lower pricing levels for remaining holdings of residential mortgage investments will lead to declines in book value per common share.

If we are unable to negotiate favorable terms and conditions on future repurchase arrangements with one or more of our lending counterparties, our liquidity, financial condition and earnings could be adversely impacted. The terms and conditions of each repurchase arrangement are negotiated on a transaction-by-transaction basis, and these borrowings generally are re-established, or rolled, at maturity. Key terms and conditions of each transaction include interest rates, maturity dates, asset pricing procedures and margin requirements. We cannot assure investors that we will be able to continue to negotiate favorable terms and conditions on our future repurchase arrangements. For instance, during periods of market illiquidity or due to perceived credit deterioration of the collateral pledged or the company itself, a lender may require that less favorable asset pricing procedures be employed, margin requirements be increased and/or may choose to limit or completely curtail lending to us. Under these conditions, we may determine it is prudent to sell assets to improve our ability to pledge sufficient collateral to support our remaining borrowings, which could result in losses.

Our use of repurchase arrangements to finance our investments may expose us to losses if a lending counterparty seeks bankruptcy protection, or otherwise defaults on its obligation to deliver pledged collateral back to us. Repurchase arrangements involve the sale and transfer of pledged collateral to the lending counterparty and a



simultaneous agreement to repurchase the transferred assets at a future date. This may make it difficult for us to recover our pledged assets if a lender files for bankruptcy or otherwise fails to deliver pledged collateral back to us and subject us to losses to the extent of any margin amounts (pledged assets in excess of amounts borrowed) held by the lending counterparty.

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Our use of repurchase arrangements to finance our investments may give our lending counterparties greater rights if we seek bankruptcy protection, exposing us to losses. Borrowings made under repurchase arrangements may qualify for special treatment under the U.S. Bankruptcy Code. If we file for bankruptcy, our lending counterparties could avoid the automatic stay provisions of the U.S. Bankruptcy Code and liquidate pledged collateral without delay, which could result in losses to the extent of any margin amounts held by the lending counterparties.

We may sell assets for various reasons, including a change in our investment focus, which could increase earnings volatility. We may periodically sell assets to enhance our liquidity during periods of market illiquidity or rising interest rates or we may change our investment focus requiring us to sell some portion of our existing investments. Gains or losses resulting from any such asset sales, or from terminating any related longer-dated repurchase arrangements or interest rate swap agreements, could increase our earnings volatility.

We may invest in derivative financial instruments such as interest rate swap agreements to mitigate or hedge our interest rate risk, which may adversely affect our liquidity, financial condition or earnings. We may invest in such instruments from time to time with the goal of achieving more stable borrowing costs over an extended period. However, these activities may not have the desired beneficial impact on our liquidity, financial condition or earnings. For instance, the pricing of residential mortgage investments and the pricing of related derivatives may deteriorate at the same time leading to margin calls by counterparties to both the borrowings supporting these investments and the derivatives, adversely impacting our liquidity and financial condition. In addition, counterparties could fail to honor their commitments under the terms of the derivatives or have their credit quality downgraded impairing the value of the derivatives. In the event of any defaults by counterparties, we may have difficulty recovering our cash collateral receivable from our counterparties and may not receive payments provided for under the terms of the derivatives and as a result, we may incur losses. No such hedging activity can completely insulate us from the risks associated with changes in interest rates and prepayment rates.

Derivative financial instruments held may fail to qualify for hedge accounting introducing potential volatility to our earnings. We typically qualify derivative financial instruments held as cash flow hedges for accounting purposes in order to record the effective portion of the change in fair value of derivatives as a component of stockholders' equity rather than in earnings. If the hedging relationship for any derivative held ceases to qualify for hedge accounting treatment for any reason, including failing to meet documentation and ongoing hedge effectiveness requirements, we would be required to record in earnings the total change in fair value of any such derivative. In addition we could elect to no longer avail ourselves of cash flow hedge accounting for our derivative positions. Such changes could introduce a potentially significant amount of volatility to earnings reported by us.

The lack of availability of suitable investments at attractive pricing may adversely affect our earnings. The pricing of investments is determined by a number of factors including interest rate levels and expectations, market liquidity conditions, and competition among investors for these investments, many of whom have greater financial resources and lower return requirements than us. Additionally, in recent years the federal government, primarily through the Federal Reserve, has been an active buyer of Agency Securities which has had the effect of supporting, if not increasing, pricing for these securities. To the extent the proceeds from prepayments on our mortgage investments are not reinvested or cannot be reinvested at rates of return at least equal to the rates previously earned on those investments, our earnings may be adversely affected. Similarly, if proceeds from capital raising activities are not deployed or cannot be deployed at rates of return being earned on existing capital, earnings may be adversely affected. We cannot assure investors that we will be able to acquire suitable investments at attractive pricing and in a timely manner to replace portfolio runoff as it occurs or to deploy new capital as it is raised. Neither can we assure investors that we will maintain the current composition of our investments, consisting primarily of ARM Agency Securities.

We are dependent on our executives and employees and the loss of one or more of our executive officers could harm our business and our prospects. As a self-managed REIT with only 14 employees, we are dependent on the efforts of

our key officers and employees, most of whom have significant experience in the mortgage industry. Although our named executive officers and some of our other employees are parties to severance agreements, our key officers and employees are not subject to employment agreements with non-compete clauses, nor have we acquired key man life insurance policies on any of these individuals. The loss of any of their services could have an adverse effect on our operations.

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Risks Related to Our Status as a REIT and Other Tax Matters

If we do not qualify as a REIT, we will be subject to tax as a regular corporation and face substantial tax liability. We have elected to be taxed as a REIT for federal income tax purposes and intend to continue to so qualify. Qualification as a REIT involves the application of highly technical and complex Internal Revenue Code provisions for which only a limited number of judicial or administrative interpretations exist. Even a technical or inadvertent mistake could jeopardize our REIT status. Furthermore, new tax legislation, administrative guidance or court decisions, in each instance potentially with retroactive effect, could make it more difficult or impossible for us to qualify as a REIT.

If we fail to qualify as a REIT in any tax year, then:

We would be taxed as a regular domestic corporation, which, among other things, means that we would be unable to deduct dividends paid to our stockholders in computing taxable income and would be subject to federal income tax on our taxable income at regular corporate rates;

Any resulting tax liability could be substantial and would reduce the cash available for distribution to stockholders, and we would not be required to make income distributions; and

Unless we were entitled to relief under applicable statutory provisions, we would be disqualified from treatment as a REIT for the current year and subsequent four taxable years and, as a result, our cash available for distribution to stockholders would be reduced during these years.

Even if we remain qualified as a REIT, we may face other tax liabilities that reduce our earnings. Even if we remain qualified for taxation as a REIT, we may be subject to certain federal, state and local taxes on our income and assets. For example, we:

- will be required to pay tax on any undistributed REIT taxable income,
- may be subject to the “alternative minimum tax” on any tax preference items, and
- may operate taxable REIT subsidiaries subject to tax on any taxable income earned.

Complying with REIT requirements may limit our ability to hedge effectively. The REIT provisions of the Code may limit our ability to hedge mortgage securities and related borrowings by requiring us to limit our income in each year from nonqualified hedges together with any other income not generated from qualified real estate assets, to no more than 25% of gross income. In addition, we must limit our aggregate income from nonqualified hedging transactions, from providing certain services, and from other non-qualifying sources to not more than 5% of annual gross income. As a result, we may have to limit our use of advantageous hedging techniques. This could result in greater risks associated with changes in interest rates than we would otherwise incur. If we were to violate the 25% or 5% limitations, we may have to pay a penalty tax equal to the amount of gross income in excess of those limitations, multiplied by a fraction intended to reflect our profitability. If we fail to satisfy the REIT gross income tests we could lose our REIT status for federal income tax purposes unless the failure was due to reasonable cause and not due to willful neglect.

Complying with REIT requirements may cause us to forego otherwise attractive opportunities. To qualify as a REIT for federal income tax purposes, we must continually satisfy tests concerning, among other things, the sources of our income, the nature and diversification of our assets, the amounts that we distribute to our stockholders, and the ownership of our stock. We may be required to make distributions to stockholders at disadvantageous times or when we do not have funds readily available for distribution. As a result, compliance with the REIT requirements may hinder our ability to operate solely on the basis of maximizing profits.



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Complying with REIT requirements may force us to liquidate otherwise attractive investments. To qualify as a REIT, we must also ensure that at the end of each calendar quarter at least 75% of the value of our assets consists of cash, cash items, United States government securities and qualified REIT real estate assets. The remainder of our investments in securities (other than government securities and qualified real estate assets) generally cannot include more than 10% of the outstanding voting securities of any one issuer or more than 10% of the total value of the outstanding securities of any one issuer. In addition, in general, no more than 5% of the value of our assets (other than government securities and qualified real estate assets) can consist of the securities of any one issuer, and no more than 25% of the value of our total securities can be represented by securities of one or more taxable REIT subsidiaries. If we fail to comply with these requirements at the end of any calendar quarter, we must correct such failure within 30 days after the end of the calendar quarter to avoid losing our REIT status and suffering adverse tax consequences. As a result, we may be required to liquidate otherwise attractive investments.

Complying with REIT requirements may force us to borrow to make distributions to stockholders. As a REIT, we must distribute at least 90% of our annual taxable income (subject to certain adjustments) to our stockholders. To the extent that we satisfy the distribution requirement, but distribute less than 100% of our taxable income, we will be subject to federal corporate income tax on our undistributed taxable income. In addition, we will be subject to a 4% nondeductible excise tax if the actual amount that we pay out to our stockholders in a calendar year is less than a minimum amount specified under the federal tax laws. From time to time, we may generate taxable income greater than our net income for financial reporting purposes or our taxable income may be greater than our cash flow available for distribution to stockholders. If we do not have other funds available in these situations, we could be required to borrow funds, sell investments at disadvantageous prices or find another alternative source of funds to make distributions sufficient to enable us to pay out enough of our taxable income to satisfy the distribution requirement and to avoid corporate income tax or the 4% excise tax in a particular year. These alternatives could increase our costs and reduce our long-term investment capital.

We may be subject to adverse legislative or regulatory tax changes that could reduce the market price of our securities. Federal income tax laws governing REITs or the administrative interpretations of those laws may change at any time. Any such changes in laws or interpretations thereof may apply retroactively and could adversely affect us or our stockholders. We cannot predict any impact on the value of our securities from adverse legislative or regulatory tax changes.

An investment in our securities has various federal, state and local income tax risks that could affect the value of your investment. We strongly urge you to consult your own tax advisor concerning the effects of federal, state and local income tax law on an investment in our securities, because of the complex nature of the tax rules applicable to REITs and their stockholders.

## Risk Factors Related to Our Corporate Structure

There are no assurances of our ability to pay dividends in the future. We intend to continue paying quarterly dividends and to make distributions to our stockholders in amounts such that all or substantially all of our taxable income in each year, subject to certain adjustments, is distributed. This, along with other factors, should enable us to qualify for the tax benefits accorded to a REIT under the Internal Revenue Code. However, our ability to pay dividends may be adversely affected by the risk factors described in this filing. All distributions will be made at the discretion of our board of directors and will depend upon our earnings, our financial condition, maintenance of our REIT status and such other factors as the board may deem relevant from time to time. There are no assurances of our ability to pay dividends in the future.

Failure to maintain an exemption from the Investment Company Act of 1940 would adversely affect our results of operations. The Investment Company Act of 1940 (the "40 Act") exempts from regulation as an investment company any entity that is primarily engaged in the business of purchasing or otherwise acquiring mortgages and other liens on,

and interests in, real estate. We believe that we conduct our business in a manner that allows us to avoid registration as an investment company under the 40 Act. For over 30 years, the staff of the SEC has interpreted the provisions of the 40 Act to require, among other things, a REIT to maintain at least 55% of its assets directly in qualifying real estate interests and at least 80% of its assets in real estate-related assets in order to be exempt from regulation as an investment company. Critical to our exemption from regulation as an investment company is the long-standing SEC staff interpretation that so called whole loan mortgage securities, in which an investor holds all issued certificates with respect to an underlying pool of mortgage loans, constitutes a qualifying real estate interest for purposes of the staff's 55% qualifying real estate interest requirement.

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Conversely, so called partial pool mortgage securities presently do not qualify for purposes of meeting the 55% requirement, although they are considered by the staff to be real estate-related assets for purposes of meeting the staff's 80% real estate-related asset requirement.

In August 2011, the SEC staff issued a request for information (Concept Release No. IC-29778) from industry participants and investors regarding, among other things, its past interpretations of the 40 Act real estate exemption, including the interpretations described above, raising concerns that the SEC may issue a proposal for rulemaking that could overturn some of the staff's past interpretations regarding the real estate exemption. If the SEC or its staff adopts contrary interpretations of the 40 Act and we and other similar REITs become subject to regulation as investment companies, the industry's use of leverage would be substantially reduced. Absent a restructuring of our business operations to avoid such regulation, this could require the sale of most of our portfolio of Agency Securities under potentially adverse market conditions resulting in losses and significantly reduce future net interest margins and earnings.

Pursuant to our charter, our board of directors has the ability to limit ownership of our capital stock, to the extent necessary to preserve our REIT qualification. For the purpose of preserving our REIT qualification, our charter gives the board the ability to repurchase outstanding shares of our capital stock from existing stockholders if the directors determine in good faith that the concentration of ownership by such individuals, directly or indirectly, would cause us to fail to qualify or be disqualified as a REIT. Constructive ownership rules are complex and may cause the outstanding stock owned by a group of related individuals or entities to be deemed to be constructively owned by one individual or entity. As a result, the acquisition of outstanding stock by an individual or entity could cause that individual or entity to own constructively a greater concentration of our outstanding stock than is acceptable for REIT purposes, thereby giving the board the ability to repurchase any excess shares.

Because provisions contained in Maryland law and our charter may have an anti-takeover effect, investors may be prevented from receiving a "control premium" for their shares. Provisions contained in our charter and Maryland general corporation law can delay, defer or prevent a takeover attempt, which may prevent stockholders from receiving a "control premium" for their shares. For example, these provisions may defer or prevent tender offers for our common stock, purchases of large blocks of our common stock, or proxy contests to change the composition of our board of directors, thereby limiting the opportunities for our stockholders to receive a premium over then-prevailing market prices. These provisions include the following:

**Repurchase rights:** Repurchase rights granted to our board in our charter limit related investors, including, among other things, any voting group, from owning common stock if the concentration owned would jeopardize our REIT status.

**Classification of preferred stock:** Our charter authorizes the board to issue preferred stock and establish the preferences and rights of any class of preferred stock issued. These actions can be taken without soliciting stockholder approval and could have the effect of delaying or preventing someone from taking control of us.

**Statutory provisions:** We are subject to provisions of Maryland statutory law that restrict business combinations with interested stockholders and restrict voting rights of certain shares acquired in control share acquisitions. Our board has not taken any action to exempt us from these provisions.

**Other Maryland law elections:** A provision of Maryland law allows our board, without stockholder approval, to implement various provisions that may deter stockholder efforts to change the composition of our Board of Directors by, among other things, implementing a staggered board, requiring a two-thirds vote of the stockholders for any director removal, requiring that a majority of the outstanding shares request a special meeting of stockholders, and providing directors the exclusive right to fill vacancies on the board. Our board has not taken any action to limit its ability to implement any of these provisions in the future, other than to provide, through an unrelated provision of



Maryland law, a majority requirement for the calling of a special meeting of stockholders.

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Maryland statutory law provides that an act of a director relating to or affecting an acquisition or a potential acquisition of control of a corporation may not be subject to a higher duty or greater scrutiny than is applied to any other act of a director. Hence, directors of Maryland corporations may not be required to act in takeover situations under the same standards as apply in Delaware and certain other corporate jurisdictions.

There are risks associated with ownership of our Series E Preferred Stock. Risks associated with ownership of our Series E preferred stock include:

**Redemption rights:** The Series E preferred stock is redeemable by us, in whole or in part, at any time on or after May 13, 2018, or pursuant to a Special Optional Redemption Right upon the occurrence of a Change of Control, as both terms are defined in the Series E Articles Supplementary, at a cash redemption price of \$25.00 plus all accrued and unpaid dividends to, but not including, the date of redemption, which may be less than the prevailing market price for our Series E preferred stock.

**Limited conversion rights:** Holders of our Series E preferred stock may convert into our common stock only upon the occurrence of a Change of Control, and only if we do not exercise our Special Optional Redemption Right. Even if this were to occur, it may not be economically advantageous to convert based on then existing conversion ratios and trading levels of our common stock.

**Subordination:** Our Series E preferred stock is subordinate to all of our existing and future debt. None of the provisions relating to our Series E preferred stock limit our ability to incur future debt. Future debt may include restrictions on our ability to pay dividends on, redeem, or pay the liquidation preference on, our Series E preferred stock.

**Dilution through issuance of additional preferred stock:** Our charter currently authorizes the issuance of up to 100 million shares of preferred stock in one or more series. The issuance of additional preferred stock on parity with or senior to our Series E preferred stock would dilute the interests of Series E preferred stockholders, and could affect our ability to pay dividends on, redeem, or pay the liquidation preference on, our Series E preferred stock. None of the provisions relating to our Series E preferred stock limit our ability to issue additional preferred stock on parity with our Series E preferred stock.

**Limited voting rights:** Voting rights as a holder of our Series E preferred stock are limited. Our common stock is currently the only class of stock carrying full voting rights. Voting rights for holders of our Series E preferred stock exist primarily with respect to (i) adverse changes in the terms of the Series E preferred stock, (ii) the creation of additional classes or series of preferred stock that are senior to the Series E preferred stock, and (iii) the non-payment of six quarterly dividends (whether or not consecutive).

We may change our policies without stockholder approval. Our board and management determine all of our policies, including our investment, financing and distribution policies and may amend or revise these policies at any time without a vote of our stockholders. Policy changes could adversely affect our financial condition, results of operations, the market price of our common and preferred stock or our ability to pay dividends or distributions.

### USE OF PROCEEDS

Unless otherwise indicated in a prospectus supplement, we expect to use the net proceeds from the sale of these securities for general corporate purposes.

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## RATIO OF EARNINGS TO FIXED CHARGES

The following table sets forth our historical ratios of net income to fixed charges and the ratios of income to combined fixed charges and our preferred stock dividends for each of the periods indicated:

	Nine Months Ended	Year Ended December 31, September,				
	2014	2013	2012	2011	2010	2009
Ratio of net income to fixed charges	3.01:1	2.68:1	3.10:1	3.42:1	3.26:1	2.00:1
Ratio of net income to combined fixed charges and preferred stock dividends	2.53:1	1.79:1	2.44:1	2.63:1	2.39:1	1.73:1

## DESCRIPTION OF OUR CAPITAL STOCK

## General

We were formed under the laws of the State of Maryland. Rights of our stockholders are governed by the Maryland General Corporation Law, or MGCL, our charter and our bylaws. The following is a summary of the material provisions of our capital stock. Copies of our charter and bylaws are filed as exhibits to the registration statement of which this prospectus is a part. See “Where You Can Find More Information.”

## Authorized Stock

Our charter provides that we may issue up to 250 million shares of voting common stock, par value \$.01 per share, and 100 million shares of preferred stock, par value \$.10 per share.

## Power to Issue Additional Shares of Our Common Stock and Preferred Stock

We believe that the power of our board of directors, without stockholder approval, to issue additional authorized but unissued shares of our common stock or preferred stock and to classify or reclassify unissued shares of our common stock or preferred stock and thereafter to cause us to issue such classified or reclassified shares of stock provides us with flexibility in structuring possible future financings and acquisitions and in meeting other needs which might arise. The additional classes or series, as well as the common stock, will be available for issuance without further action by our stockholders, unless stockholder consent is required by applicable law or the rules of any stock exchange or automated quotation system on which our securities may be listed or traded. Although our board of directors does not intend to do so, it could authorize us to issue an additional class or series of stock that could, depending upon the terms of the particular class or series, delay, defer or prevent a transaction or a change of control of our company that might involve a premium price for our stockholders or otherwise be in their best interest.

## Restrictions on Ownership and Transfer

Our charter provides that if our board of directors determines in good faith that the direct or indirect ownership of our stock has or may become concentrated to an extent which would cause us to fail to qualify or be qualified as a REIT under Sections 856(a)(5) or (6) of the Code, or similar provisions of successor statutes, we may redeem or repurchase any number of shares of common stock and/or preferred stock sufficient to maintain or bring such ownership into conformity with the Code and may refuse to transfer or issue shares of common stock and/or preferred stock to any person whose acquisition would result in our being unable to conform with the requirements of the Code. In general, Code Sections 856(a)(5) and (6) provide that, as a REIT, we must have at least 100 beneficial owners for 335 days of each taxable year and that we cannot qualify as a REIT if, at any time during the last half of our taxable year, more than 50% in value of our outstanding stock is owned, directly or indirectly, by or for not more than five individuals. In

addition, our charter provides that we may redeem or refuse to transfer any shares of our capital stock to the extent necessary to prevent the imposition of a penalty tax as a result of ownership of those shares by certain disqualified organizations, including governmental bodies and tax-exempt entities that are not subject to tax on unrelated business taxable income. The redemption or purchase price for those shares shall be equal to the fair market value of those shares as reflected in the closing sales price for those shares if then listed on a national securities exchange, or the average of the closing sales prices for those shares if then listed on more than one national securities exchange, or if those shares are not then listed on a national securities exchange, the latest bid quotation for the shares if then traded over-the-counter on the last business day for which closing prices are available immediately preceding the day on which notices of such acquisitions are sent or, if no such closing sales prices or quotations are available, then the net asset value of those shares as determined by our board of directors in accordance with the provisions of applicable law.

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Transfer Agent and Registrar

The transfer agent and registrar for our common stock and preferred stock is Wells Fargo Shareholder Services.

DESCRIPTION OF OUR COMMON STOCK

The following description of our common stock sets forth certain general terms and provisions of our common stock to which any prospectus supplement may relate, including a prospectus supplement providing that common stock will be issuable upon conversion or exchange of our debt securities or preferred stock or upon the exercise of warrants to purchase our common stock.

All shares of our common stock covered by this prospectus will be duly authorized, fully paid and nonassessable. Subject to the preferential rights of any other class or series of stock and to the provisions of the charter regarding the restrictions on transfer of stock, holders of shares of our common stock are entitled to receive dividends on such stock when, as and if authorized by our board of directors out of funds legally available therefor and declared by us and to share ratably in the assets of our company legally available for distribution to our stockholders in the event of our liquidation, dissolution or winding up after payment of or adequate provision for all known debts and liabilities of our company, including the preferential rights on dissolution of any class or classes of preferred stock.

Subject to the provisions of our charter regarding the restrictions on transfer of stock, each outstanding share of our common stock entitles the holder to one vote on all matters submitted to a vote of stockholders, including the election of directors and, except as provided with respect to any other class or series of stock, the holders of such shares will possess the exclusive voting power. There is no cumulative voting in the election of our board of directors, which means that the holders of a plurality of the outstanding shares of our common stock can elect all of the directors then standing for election and the holders of the remaining shares will not be able to elect any directors.

Holders of shares of our common stock have no preference, conversion, exchange, sinking fund, redemption or appraisal rights and have no preemptive rights to subscribe for any securities of our company. Subject to the provisions of the charter regarding the restrictions on transfer of stock, shares of our common stock will have equal dividend, liquidation and other rights.

Under the MGCL, a Maryland corporation generally cannot dissolve, amend its charter, merge, consolidate, transfer all or substantially all of its assets, engage in a statutory share exchange or engage in similar transactions outside the ordinary course of business unless declared advisable by the board of directors and approved by the affirmative vote of stockholders holding at least two-thirds of the shares entitled to vote on the matter unless a lesser percentage (but not less than a majority of all of the votes entitled to be cast on the matter) is set forth in the corporation's charter. Our charter generally reduces the stockholder vote required for these matters to a majority of the total number of shares of all classes outstanding and entitled to vote thereon. Additionally, Maryland law permits a corporation to transfer all or substantially all of its assets without the approval of the stockholders of the corporation to one or more persons if all of the equity interests of the person or persons are owned, directly or indirectly, by the corporation. Because operating assets may be held by a corporation's subsidiaries, as in our situation, this may mean that a subsidiary of a corporation can transfer all of its assets without a vote of the corporation's stockholders.

Our charter authorizes our board of directors to reclassify any unissued shares of our common stock into other classes or series of classes of stock and to establish the number of shares in each class or series and to set the preferences, conversion and other rights, voting powers, restrictions, limitations as to dividends or other distributions, qualifications or terms or conditions of redemption for each such class or series.

DESCRIPTION OF OUR PREFERRED STOCK

Our charter authorizes our board of directors to classify any unissued shares of preferred stock and to reclassify any previously classified but unissued shares of any series. Prior to issuance of shares of each series, our board of directors is required by the MGCL and our charter to set the terms, preferences, conversion or other rights, voting powers, restrictions, limitations as to dividends or other distributions, qualifications and terms or conditions of redemption for each such series. Thus, our board of directors could authorize the issuance of shares of preferred stock with terms and conditions that could have the effect of delaying, deferring or preventing a transaction or a change of control of our company that might involve a premium price for holders of our common stock or otherwise be in their best interest. As of the date hereof, 10,800,000 shares of Series E Preferred Stock are authorized, and 7,710,197 shares are outstanding. Our preferred stock will, when issued, be fully paid and nonassessable and will not have, or be subject to, any preemptive or similar rights.

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The prospectus supplement relating to the series of preferred stock offered by that supplement will describe the specific terms of those securities, including:

- the title and stated value of that preferred stock;
- the number of shares of that preferred stock offered, the liquidation preference per share and the offering price of that preferred stock;
- the dividend rate(s), period(s) and payment date(s) or method(s) of calculation thereof applicable to that preferred stock;
- whether dividends will be cumulative or non-cumulative and, if cumulative, the date from which dividends on that preferred stock will accumulate;
- the voting rights applicable to that preferred stock;
- the procedures for any auction and remarketing, if any, for that preferred stock;
- the provisions for a sinking fund, if any, for that preferred stock;
- the provisions for redemption including any restriction thereon, if applicable, of that preferred stock;
- any listing of that preferred stock on any securities exchange;
- the terms and conditions, if applicable, upon which that preferred stock will be convertible into shares of our common stock, including the conversion price (or manner of calculation of the conversion price) and conversion period;
- a discussion of federal income tax considerations applicable to that preferred stock;
- any limitations on issuance of any series of preferred stock ranking senior to or on a parity with that series of preferred stock as to dividend rights and rights upon liquidation, dissolution or winding up of our affairs;
  - in addition to those limitations described above under “DESCRIPTION OF CAPITAL STOCK — Restrictions on Ownership and Transfer,” any other limitations on actual and constructive ownership and restrictions on transfer, in each case as may be appropriate to preserve our status as a REIT; and
- any other specific terms, preferences, rights, limitations or restrictions of that preferred stock.

Rank Within Our Capital Structure

Unless otherwise specified in the applicable prospectus supplement, the preferred stock will, with respect to dividend rights and rights upon liquidation, dissolution or winding up of our affairs rank:

- senior to all classes or series of common stock and to all equity securities ranking junior to the preferred stock with respect to dividend rights or rights upon liquidation, dissolution or winding up of our affairs;

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on a parity with all equity securities issued by us the terms of which specifically provide that those equity securities rank on a parity with the preferred stock with respect to dividend rights or rights upon liquidation, dissolution or winding up of our affairs; and

junior to all equity securities issued by us the terms of which specifically provide that those equity securities rank senior to the preferred stock with respect to dividend rights or rights upon liquidation, dissolution or winding up of our affairs.

The term “equity securities” does not include convertible debt securities.

Dividends

Subject to the preferential rights of any other class or series of stock and to the provisions of the charter regarding the restrictions on transfer of stock, holders of shares of our preferred stock will be entitled to receive dividends on such stock when, as and if authorized by our board of directors out of funds legally available therefor and declared by us, at rates and on dates as will be set forth in the applicable prospectus supplement.

Dividends on any series or class of our preferred stock may be cumulative or noncumulative, as provided in the applicable prospectus supplement. Dividends, if cumulative, will be cumulative from and after the date set forth in the applicable prospectus supplement. If our board of directors fails to authorize a dividend payable on a dividend payment date on any series or class of preferred stock for which dividends are noncumulative, then the holders of that series or class of preferred stock will have no right to receive a dividend in respect of the dividend period ending on that dividend payment date, and we will have no obligation to pay the dividend accrued for that period, whether or not dividends on such series or class are declared or paid for any future period.

If any shares of preferred stock of any series or class are outstanding, no dividends may be authorized or paid or set apart for payment on the preferred stock of any other series or class ranking, as to dividends, on a parity with or junior to the preferred stock of that series or class for any period unless:

the series or class of preferred stock has a cumulative dividend, and full cumulative dividends have been or contemporaneously are authorized and paid or authorized and a sum sufficient for the payment of those dividends is set apart for payment on the preferred stock of that series or class for all past dividend periods and the then current dividend period; or

the series or class of preferred stock does not have a cumulative dividend, and full dividends for the then current dividend period have been or contemporaneously are authorized and paid or authorized and a sum sufficient for the payment of those dividends is set apart for the payment on the preferred stock of that series or class.

When dividends are not paid in full (or a sum sufficient for the full payment is not set apart) upon the shares of preferred stock of any series or class and the shares of any other series or class of preferred stock ranking on a parity as to dividends with the preferred stock of that series or class, then all dividends authorized on shares of preferred stock of that series or class and any other series or class of preferred stock ranking on a parity as to dividends with that preferred stock shall be authorized pro rata so that the amount of dividends authorized per share on the preferred stock of that series or class and other series or class of preferred stock will in all cases bear to each other the same ratio that accrued dividends per share on the shares of preferred stock of that series or class (which will not include any accumulation in respect of unpaid dividends for prior dividend periods if the preferred stock does not have a cumulative dividend) and that other series or class of preferred stock bear to each other. No interest, or sum of money in lieu of interest, will be payable in respect of any dividend payment or payments on preferred stock of that series or class that may be in arrears.



Redemption

We may have the right or may be required to redeem one or more series of preferred stock, in whole or in part, in each case upon the terms, if any, and at the time and at the redemption prices set forth in the applicable prospectus supplement.

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If a series of preferred stock is subject to mandatory redemption, we will specify in the applicable prospectus supplement the number of shares we are required to redeem, when those redemptions start, the redemption price, and any other terms and conditions affecting the redemption. The redemption price will include all accrued and unpaid dividends, except in the case of noncumulative preferred stock. The redemption price may be payable in cash or other property, as specified in the applicable prospectus supplement. If the redemption price for preferred stock of any series or class is payable only from the net proceeds of the issuance of our stock, the terms of that preferred stock may provide that, if no such stock shall have been issued or to the extent the net proceeds from any issuance are insufficient to pay in full the aggregate redemption price then due, that preferred stock shall automatically and mandatorily be converted into shares of our applicable stock pursuant to conversion provisions specified in the applicable prospectus supplement.

### Liquidation Preference

Upon any voluntary or involuntary liquidation or dissolution of us or winding up of our affairs, then, before any distribution or payment will be made to the holders of common stock or any other series or class of stock ranking junior to any series or class of the preferred stock in the distribution of assets upon any liquidation, dissolution or winding up of our affairs, the holders of that series or class of preferred stock will be entitled to receive out of our assets legally available for distribution to shareholders liquidating distributions in the amount of the liquidation preference per share (set forth in the applicable prospectus supplement), plus an amount equal to all dividends accrued and unpaid on the preferred stock (which will not include any accumulation in respect of unpaid dividends for prior dividend periods if the preferred stock does not have a cumulative dividend). After payment of the full amount of the liquidating distributions to which they are entitled, the holders of preferred stock will have no right or claim to any of our remaining assets.

If, upon any voluntary or involuntary liquidation, dissolution or winding up, the legally available assets are insufficient to pay the amount of the liquidating distributions on all outstanding shares of any series or class of preferred stock and the corresponding amounts payable on all shares of other classes or series of our stock of ranking on a parity with that series or class of preferred stock in the distribution of assets upon liquidation, dissolution or winding up, then the holders of that series or class of preferred stock and all other classes or series of capital stock will share ratably in any distribution of assets in proportion to the full liquidating distributions to which they would otherwise be respectively entitled.

If liquidating distributions have been made in full to all holders of any series or class of preferred stock, our remaining assets will be distributed among the holders of any other classes or series of stock ranking junior to that series or class of preferred stock upon liquidation, dissolution or winding up, according to their respective rights and preferences and in each case according to their respective number of shares. For these purposes, the consolidation or merger of us with or into any other entity, or the sale, lease, transfer or conveyance of all or substantially all of our property or business, will not be deemed to constitute a liquidation, dissolution or winding up of our affairs.

### Voting Rights

Holders of preferred stock will not have any voting rights, except as provided for in the Articles Supplementary establishing a series or class of preferred stock and as described in the applicable prospectus supplement.

### Conversion Rights

The terms and conditions, if any, upon which shares of any series or class of preferred stock are convertible into shares of common stock will be set forth in the applicable prospectus supplement. The terms will include:

- the number of shares of common stock into which the preferred stock is convertible;

- the conversion price (or manner of calculation of the conversion price);
- the conversion period;

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- provisions as to whether conversion will be at the option of the holders of the preferred stock or us,
- the events requiring an adjustment of the conversion price; and
- provisions affecting conversion in the event of the redemption of the preferred stock.

Our board of directors has classified and designated 10,800,000 shares of Series E Preferred Stock, of which 7,710,197 are currently outstanding. The Series E Preferred Stock generally provides for the following rights, preferences and obligations.

### Maturity

The Series E Preferred Stock has no stated maturity and will not be subject to any sinking fund or mandatory redemption. Shares of the Series E Preferred Stock will remain outstanding indefinitely unless we decide to redeem or otherwise repurchase them or they become convertible and are converted as described below under “—Change of Control Conversion Right.” We are not required to set apart for payment the funds to redeem the Series E Preferred Stock.

### Ranking

The Series E Preferred Stock will rank, with respect to rights to the payment of dividends and the distribution of assets upon our liquidation, dissolution or winding up:

- (1) senior to all classes or series of our common stock and to all other equity securities issued by us other than equity securities referred to in clauses (2) and (3) below;
- (2) on a parity with all equity securities issued by us with terms specifically providing that those equity securities rank on a parity with the Series E Preferred Stock, with respect to rights to the payment of dividends and the distribution of assets upon our liquidation, dissolution or winding up, including, to the extent outstanding, our Series A Preferred Stock and Series B Preferred Stock;
- (3) junior to all equity securities issued by us with terms specifically providing that those equity securities rank senior to the Series E Preferred Stock with respect to rights to the payment of dividends and the distribution of assets upon our liquidation, dissolution or winding up (please see the section entitled “—Limited Voting Rights” below); and
- (4) effectively junior to all of our existing and future indebtedness (including indebtedness convertible to our common stock or preferred stock, if any) and to the indebtedness of our existing subsidiaries and any future subsidiaries.

### Dividends

Holders of shares of the Series E Preferred Stock are entitled to receive, when, as and if authorized by our board of directors and declared by us, out of funds legally available for the payment of dividends, cumulative cash dividends at the rate of 7.50% of the \$25.00 per share liquidation preference per annum (equivalent to \$1.875 per annum per share). Dividends on the Series E Preferred Stock shall accumulate daily and be cumulative from, and including, the date of original issue and shall be payable quarterly in arrears on the 15th day of each January, April, July and October (each, a “dividend payment date”) with respect to the immediately preceding dividend period; provided that if any dividend payment date is not a business day, as defined in the Articles Supplementary, then the dividend which would otherwise have been payable on that dividend payment date may be paid on the next succeeding business day and no interest, additional dividends or other sums will accumulate on the amount so payable for the period from and after that dividend payment date to that next succeeding business day. Any dividend payable on the Series E Preferred

Stock, including dividends payable for any partial dividend period, will be computed on the basis of a 360-day year consisting of twelve 30-day months. Dividends will be payable to holders of record as they appear in our stock records for the Series E Preferred Stock at the close of business on the applicable record date, which shall be the last day of the calendar quarter, whether or not a business day, immediately preceding the applicable dividend payment date (each, a “dividend record date”).

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No dividends on shares of Series E Preferred Stock shall be authorized by our board of directors or paid or set apart for payment by us at any time when the terms and provisions of any agreement of ours, including any agreement relating to our indebtedness, prohibit the authorization, payment or setting apart for payment thereof or provide that the authorization, payment or setting apart for payment thereof would constitute a breach of the agreement or a default under the agreement, or if the authorization, payment or setting apart for payment shall be restricted or prohibited by law.

Notwithstanding the foregoing, dividends on the Series E Preferred Stock will accumulate whether or not we have earnings, whether or not there are funds legally available for the payment of those dividends and whether or not those dividends are declared. No interest, or sum in lieu of interest, will be payable in respect of any dividend payment or payments on the Series E Preferred Stock which may be in arrears, and holders of the Series E Preferred Stock will not be entitled to any dividends in excess of full cumulative dividends described above. Any dividend payment made on the Series E Preferred Stock shall first be credited against the earliest accumulated but unpaid dividend due with respect to those shares.

Unless full cumulative dividends on the Series E Preferred Stock have been or contemporaneously are declared and paid or declared and a sum sufficient for the payment thereof is set apart for payment for all past dividend periods, no dividends (other than in shares of common stock or in shares of any series of preferred stock that we may issue ranking junior to the Series E Preferred Stock as to dividends and upon liquidation) shall be declared or paid or set apart for payment upon shares of our common stock or preferred stock that we may issue ranking junior to or on a parity with the Series E Preferred Stock as to dividends or upon liquidation. Nor shall any other distribution be declared or made upon shares of our common stock or preferred stock that we may issue ranking junior to or on a parity with the Series E Preferred Stock as to dividends or upon liquidation. In addition, any shares of our common stock or preferred stock that we may issue ranking junior to or on a parity with the Series E Preferred Stock as to dividends or upon liquidation shall not be redeemed, purchased or otherwise acquired for any consideration (or any moneys be paid to or made available for a sinking fund for the redemption of any such shares) by us (except by conversion into or exchange for our other capital stock that we may issue ranking junior to the Series E Preferred Stock as to dividends and upon liquidation and except for transfers made pursuant to the provisions of our charter relating to restrictions on transfer and ownership of our capital stock). The foregoing shall not, however, prevent the purchase or acquisition by us of shares of any class or series of stock pursuant to the provision of Article VIII of our charter relating to restrictions on transfer and ownership or pursuant to a purchase or exchange offer made on the same terms to holders of all outstanding shares of Series E Preferred Stock and any preferred stock that we may issue ranking on parity with the Series E Preferred Stock as to dividends or upon liquidation.

When dividends are not paid in full (or a sum sufficient for such full payment is not so set apart) upon the Series E Preferred Stock and the shares of any other series of preferred stock that we may issue ranking on a parity as to dividends with the Series E Preferred Stock, all dividends declared upon the Series E Preferred Stock and such other series of preferred stock shall be declared pro rata so that the amount of dividends declared per share of Series E Preferred Stock and such other series of preferred stock shall in all cases bear to each other the same ratio that accumulated dividends per share on the Series E Preferred Stock and such other series of preferred stock (which shall not include any accrual in respect of unpaid dividends for prior dividend periods if such preferred stock does not have a cumulative dividend) bear to each other. No interest, or sum of money in lieu of interest, shall be payable in respect of any dividend payment or payments on the Series E Preferred Stock which may be in arrears.

### Liquidation Preference

In the event of our voluntary or involuntary liquidation, dissolution or winding up, the holders of shares of Series E Preferred Stock will be entitled to be paid out of the assets we have legally available for distribution to our stockholders, subject to the preferential rights of the holders of any class or series of our stock we may issue ranking senior to the Series E Preferred Stock with respect to the distribution of assets upon liquidation, dissolution or winding

up, a liquidation preference of \$25.00 per share, plus an amount equal to any accumulated and unpaid dividends to, but not including, the date of payment, before any distribution of assets is made to holders of our common stock or any other class or series of our stock we may issue that ranks junior to the Series E Preferred Stock as to liquidation rights.

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In the event that, upon any such voluntary or involuntary liquidation, dissolution or winding up, our available assets are insufficient to pay the amount of the liquidating distributions on all outstanding shares of Series E Preferred Stock and the corresponding amounts payable on all shares of other classes or series of our capital stock that we may issue ranking on a parity with the Series E Preferred Stock in the distribution of assets, then the holders of the Series E Preferred Stock and all other such classes or series of capital stock shall share ratably in any such distribution of assets in proportion to the full liquidating distributions to which they would otherwise be respectively entitled.

Holders of Series E Preferred Stock will be entitled to written notice of any such liquidation no fewer than 30 days and no more than 60 days prior to the payment date. After payment of the full amount of the liquidating distributions to which they are entitled, the holders of Series E Preferred Stock will have no right or claim to any of our remaining assets. The consolidation or merger of us with or into any other corporation, trust or entity or of any other entity with or into us, or the sale, lease, transfer or conveyance of all or substantially all of our property or business, shall not be deemed to constitute a liquidation, dissolution or winding up of us (although such events may give rise to the special optional redemption and contingent conversion rights described below).

## Redemption

The Series E Preferred Stock is not redeemable by us prior to May 13, 2018, except as described below under “—Special Optional Redemption Upon Change of Control” and except that, as provided in our charter, we may purchase or redeem shares of the Series E Preferred Stock prior to that date in order to preserve our qualification as a REIT. Please see the section entitled “Description of Our Capital Stock—Restrictions on Ownership and Transfer” in the accompanying prospectus.

**Optional Redemption.** On and after May 13, 2018, we may, at our option, upon not less than 30 nor more than 60 days’ written notice, redeem the Series E Preferred Stock, in whole or in part, at any time or from time to time, for cash at a redemption price of \$25.00 per share, plus any accumulated and unpaid dividends thereon to, but not including, the date fixed for redemption.

**Special Optional Redemption Upon Change of Control.** Upon the occurrence of a Change of Control, we may, at our option, upon not less than 30 nor more than 60 days’ written notice, redeem the Series E Preferred Stock, in whole or in part, within 120 days after the first date on which such Change of Control occurred, for cash at a redemption price of \$25.00 per share, plus any accumulated and unpaid dividends thereon to, but not including, the date fixed for redemption. If, prior to the Change of Control Conversion Date, we have provided notice of our election to redeem some or all of the shares of Series E Preferred Stock (whether pursuant to our optional redemption right described above under “—Optional Redemption” or this special optional redemption right), the holders of Series E Preferred Stock will not have the Change of Control Conversion Right (as defined below) described below under “—Change of Control Conversion Right” with respect to the shares called for redemption.

A “Change of Control” is deemed to occur when, after the original issuance of the Series E Preferred Stock, the following have occurred and are continuing:

the acquisition by any person, including any syndicate or group deemed to be a “person” under Section 13(d)(3) of the Exchange Act, of beneficial ownership, directly or indirectly, through a purchase, merger or other acquisition transaction or series of purchases, mergers or other acquisition transactions of our stock entitling that person to exercise more than 50% of the total voting power of all our stock entitled to vote generally in the election of our directors (except that such person will be deemed to have beneficial ownership of all securities that such person has the right to acquire, whether such right is currently exercisable or is exercisable only upon the occurrence of a subsequent condition); and



following the closing of any transaction referred to in the bullet point above, neither we nor the acquiring or surviving entity has a class of common securities (or American Depositary Receipts representing such securities) listed on the NYSE, the NYSE Amex or the Nasdaq, or listed or quoted on an exchange or quotation system that is a successor to the NYSE, the NYSE Amex or Nasdaq.

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Redemption Procedures. In the event we elect to redeem Series E Preferred Stock, the notice of redemption will be mailed to each holder of record of Series E Preferred Stock called for redemption at such holder's address as it appears on our stock transfer records and will state the following:

- the redemption date;
- the number of shares of Series E Preferred Stock to be redeemed;
- the redemption price;
- the place or places where certificates (if any) for the Series E Preferred Stock are to be surrendered for payment of the redemption price;
- that dividends on the shares to be redeemed will cease to accumulate on the redemption date;
- whether such redemption is being made pursuant to the provisions described above under “—Optional Redemption” or “—Special Optional Redemption Upon Change of Control”;
- if applicable, that such redemption is being made in connection with a Change of Control and, in that case, a brief description of the transaction or transactions constituting such Change of Control; and

if such redemption is being made in connection with a Change of Control, that the holders of the shares of Series E Preferred Stock being so called for redemption will not be able to tender such shares of Series E Preferred Stock for conversion in connection with the Change of Control and that each share of Series E Preferred Stock tendered for conversion that is called, prior to the Change of Control Conversion Date (as defined below), for redemption will be redeemed on the related date of redemption instead of converted on the Change of Control Conversion Date.

If less than all of the Series E Preferred Stock held by any holder is to be redeemed, the notice mailed to such holder shall also specify the number of shares of Series E Preferred Stock held by such holder to be redeemed. No failure to give such notice or any defect thereto or in the mailing thereof shall affect the validity of the proceedings for the redemption of any shares of Series E Preferred Stock, except as to the holder to whom notice was defective or not given.

Holders of shares of Series E Preferred Stock to be redeemed shall surrender the Series E Preferred Stock at the place designated in the notice of redemption and shall be entitled to the redemption price and any accumulated and unpaid dividends payable upon the redemption following the surrender. If notice of redemption of any shares of Series E Preferred Stock has been given and if we have irrevocably set apart for payment the funds necessary for redemption in trust for the benefit of the holders of the shares of Series E Preferred Stock so called for redemption, then from and after the redemption date (unless default shall be made by us in providing for the payment of the redemption price plus accumulated and unpaid dividends, if any), dividends will cease to accumulate on those shares of Series E Preferred Stock, those shares of Series E Preferred Stock shall no longer be deemed outstanding and all rights of the holders of those shares will terminate, except the right to receive the redemption price plus accumulated and unpaid dividends, if any, payable upon redemption. If any redemption date is not a business day, then the redemption price and accumulated and unpaid dividends, if any, payable upon redemption may be paid on the next business day and no interest, additional dividends or other sums will accumulate on the amount payable for the period from and after that redemption date to that next business day. If less than all of the outstanding Series E Preferred Stock is to be redeemed, the Series E Preferred Stock to be redeemed shall be selected pro rata (as nearly as may be practicable without creating fractional shares) or by any other equitable method we determine but that will not result in the automatic transfer of any shares of Series E Preferred Stock to a trust as described below under “—Restrictions on Transfer and Ownership.”



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Immediately prior to any redemption of Series E Preferred Stock, we shall pay, in cash, any accumulated and unpaid dividends to, but not including, the redemption date, unless a redemption date falls after a dividend record date and prior to the corresponding dividend payment date, in which case each holder of Series E Preferred Stock at the close of business on such dividend record date shall be entitled to the dividend payable on such shares on the corresponding dividend payment date notwithstanding the redemption of such shares before such dividend payment date. Except as provided above, we will make no payment or allowance for unpaid dividends, whether or not in arrears, on shares of the Series E Preferred Stock to be redeemed.

Unless full cumulative dividends on all shares of Series E Preferred Stock shall have been or contemporaneously are declared and paid or declared and a sum sufficient for the payment thereof has been or contemporaneously is set apart for payment for all past dividend periods, no shares of Series E Preferred Stock shall be redeemed unless all outstanding shares of Series E Preferred Stock are simultaneously redeemed, and we shall not purchase or otherwise acquire directly or indirectly any shares of Series E Preferred Stock (except by exchanging it for our capital stock ranking junior to the Series E Preferred Stock as to dividends and upon liquidation); provided, however, that the foregoing shall not prevent the purchase or acquisition by us of shares of Series E Preferred Stock to preserve our REIT status or pursuant to a purchase or exchange offer made on the same terms to holders of all outstanding shares of Series E Preferred Stock.

Subject to applicable law, we may purchase shares of Series E Preferred Stock in the open market, by tender or by private agreement. Any shares of Series E Preferred Stock that we acquire may be retired and re-classified as authorized but unissued shares of preferred stock, without designation as to class or series, and may thereafter be

### Change of Control Conversion Right

Upon the occurrence of a Change of Control, each holder of Series E Preferred Stock will have the right (unless, prior to the Change of Control Conversion Date, we have provided notice of our election to redeem some or all of the shares of Series E Preferred Stock held by such holder as described above under “—Redemption—Optional Redemption” or “—Redemption—Special Optional Redemption Upon Change of Control,” in which case such holder will have the right only with respect to shares of Series E Preferred Stock that are not called for redemption) to convert some or all of the shares of the Series E Preferred Stock held by such holder (the “Change of Control Conversion Right”) on the Change of Control Conversion Date into a number of shares of our common stock per share of Series E Preferred Stock (the “Common Stock Conversion Consideration”) equal to the lesser of:

the quotient obtained by dividing (i) the sum of the \$25.00 liquidation preference per share of Series E Preferred Stock plus the amount of any accumulated and unpaid dividends thereon to, but not including, the Change of Control Conversion Date (unless the Change of Control Conversion Date is after a dividend record date and prior to the corresponding dividend payment date for the Series E Preferred Stock, in which case no additional amount for such accumulated and unpaid dividends will be included in this sum) by (ii) the Common Stock Price, as defined below (such quotient, the “Conversion Rate”); and

.3.81388 (the “Share Cap”), subject to certain adjustments as described below.

Anything in the Articles Supplementary to the contrary notwithstanding and except as otherwise required by law, the persons who are the holders of record of shares of Series E Preferred Stock at the close of business on a dividend record date will be entitled to receive the dividend payable on the corresponding dividend payment date notwithstanding the conversion of those shares after such dividend record date and on or prior to such dividend payment date and, in such case, the full amount of such dividend shall be paid on such dividend payment date to the persons who were the holders of record at the close of business on such dividend record date. Except as provided above, we will make no allowance for unpaid dividends that are not in arrears on the shares of Series E Preferred Stock to be converted.

The Share Cap is subject to pro rata adjustments for any share splits (including those effected pursuant to a distribution of our common stock to existing holders of our common stock), subdivisions or combinations (in each case, a “Share Split”) with respect to our common stock as follows: the adjusted Share Cap as the result of a Share Split will be the number of shares of our common stock that is equivalent to the product obtained by multiplying (i) the Share Cap in effect immediately prior to such Share Split by (ii) a fraction, the numerator of which is the number of shares of our common stock outstanding immediately after giving effect to such Share Split and the denominator of which is the number of shares of our common stock outstanding immediately prior to such Share Split.

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For the avoidance of doubt, subject to the immediately succeeding sentence, the aggregate number of shares of our common stock (or equivalent Alternative Conversion Consideration (as defined below), as applicable) issuable or deliverable, as applicable, in connection with the exercise of the Change of Control Conversion Right will not exceed the product of the Share Cap times the aggregate number of shares of the Series E Preferred Stock issued and outstanding at the Change of Control Conversion Date (or equivalent Alternative Conversion Consideration, as applicable) (the “Exchange Cap”). The Exchange Cap is subject to pro rata adjustments for any Share Splits on the same basis as the corresponding adjustment to the Share Cap.

In the case of a Change of Control pursuant to which our common stock is or will be converted into cash, securities or other property or assets (including any combination thereof) (the “Alternative Form Consideration”), a holder of Series E Preferred Stock will receive upon conversion of such shares of the Series E Preferred Stock, the kind and amount of Alternative Form Consideration which such holder would have owned or been entitled to receive upon the Change of Control had such holder held a number of shares of our common stock equal to the Common Stock Conversion Consideration immediately prior to the effective time of the Change of Control (the “Alternative Conversion Consideration”); the Common Stock Conversion Consideration or the Alternative Conversion Consideration, whichever shall be applicable to a Change of Control, is referred to as the “Conversion Consideration”).

If the holders of our common stock have the opportunity to elect the form of consideration to be received in the Change of Control, the consideration in respect of such Change of Control will be deemed to be the kind and amount of consideration actually received by holders of a majority of the outstanding shares of our common stock that made or voted for such an election (if electing between two types of consideration) or holders of a plurality of the outstanding shares of our common stock that made or voted for such an election (if electing between more than two types of consideration), as the case may be, and will be subject to any limitations to which all holders of our common stock are subject, including, without limitation, pro rata reductions applicable to any portion of the consideration payable in such Change of Control.

We will not issue fractional shares of our common stock upon the conversion of the Series E Preferred Stock in connection with a Change of Control. Instead, we will make a cash payment equal to the value of such fractional shares based upon the Common Stock Price used in determining the Common Stock Conversion Consideration for such Change of Control.

Within 15 days following the occurrence of a Change of Control, provided that we have not then exercised our right to redeem all shares of Series E Preferred Stock pursuant to the redemption provisions described above, we will provide to holders of Series E Preferred Stock a notice of occurrence of the Change of Control that describes the resulting Change of Control Conversion Right. This notice will state the following:

- the events constituting the Change of Control;
- the date of the Change of Control;
- the last date on which the holders of Series E Preferred Stock may exercise their Change of Control Conversion Right;
- the method and period for calculating the Common Stock Price;
- the Change of Control Conversion Date;
- that if, prior to the Change of Control Conversion Date, we have provided notice of our election to redeem all or any shares of Series E Preferred Stock, holders will not be able to convert the shares of Series E Preferred Stock called

for redemption and such shares will be redeemed on the related redemption date, even if such shares have already been tendered for conversion pursuant to the Change of Control Conversion Right;

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if applicable, the type and amount of Alternative Conversion Consideration entitled to be received per share of Series E Preferred Stock;

the name and address of the paying agent, transfer agent and conversion agent for the Series E Preferred Stock;

the procedures that the holders of Series E Preferred Stock must follow to exercise the Change of Control Conversion Right (including procedures for surrendering shares for conversion through the facilities of a Depositary (as defined below)), including the form of conversion notice to be delivered by such holders as described below; and

the last date on which holders of Series E Preferred Stock may withdraw shares surrendered for conversion and the procedures that such holders must follow to effect such a withdrawal.

Under such circumstances, we also will issue a press release containing such notice for publication on Dow Jones & Company, Inc., Business Wire, PR Newswire or Bloomberg Business News (or, if these organizations are not in existence at the time of issuance of the press release, such other news or press organization as is reasonably calculated to broadly disseminate the relevant information to the public), and post a notice on our website, in any event prior to the opening of business on the first business day following any date on which we provide the notice described above to the holders of Series E Preferred Stock.

To exercise the Change of Control Conversion Right, the holders of Series E Preferred Stock will be required to deliver, on or before the close of business on the Change of Control Conversion Date, the certificates (if any) representing the shares of Series E Preferred Stock to be converted, duly endorsed for transfer (or, in the case of any shares of Series E Preferred Stock held in book-entry form through a Depositary, to deliver, on or before the close of business on the Change of Control Conversion Date, the shares of Series E Preferred Stock to be converted through the facilities of such Depositary), together with a written conversion notice in the form provided by us, duly completed, to our transfer agent. The conversion notice must state:

the relevant Change of Control  
Conversion Date;

the number of shares of Series E Preferred Stock to be converted; and

that the shares of the Series E Preferred Stock are to be converted pursuant to the applicable provisions of the Series E Preferred Stock.

The “Change of Control Conversion Date” is the date the Series E Preferred Stock is to be converted, which will be a business day selected by us that is no fewer than 20 days nor more than 35 days after the date on which we provide the notice described above to the holders of Series E Preferred Stock.

The “Common Stock Price” is (i) if the consideration to be received in the Change of Control by the holders of our common stock is solely cash, the amount of cash consideration per share of our common stock or (ii) if the consideration to be received in the Change of Control by holders of our common stock is other than solely cash (x) the average of the closing sale prices per share of our common stock (or, if no closing sale price is reported, the average of the closing bid and ask prices per share or, if more than one in either case, the average of the average closing bid and the average closing ask prices per share) for the ten consecutive trading days immediately preceding, but not including, the date on which such Change of Control occurred as reported on the principal U.S. securities exchange on which our common stock is then traded, or (y) the average of the last quoted bid prices for our common stock in the over-the-counter market as reported by Pink OTC Markets Inc. or similar organization for the ten consecutive trading days immediately preceding, but not including, the date on which such Change of Control occurred, if our common stock is not then listed for trading on a U.S. securities exchange.





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Holders of Series E Preferred Stock may withdraw any notice of exercise of a Change of Control Conversion Right (in whole or in part) by a written notice of withdrawal delivered to our transfer agent prior to the close of business on the business day prior to the Change of Control Conversion Date. The notice of withdrawal delivered by any holder must state:

·the number of withdrawn shares of Series E Preferred Stock;

·if certificated Series E Preferred Stock has been surrendered for conversion, the certificate numbers of the withdrawn shares of Series E Preferred Stock; and

·the number of shares of Series E Preferred Stock, if any, which remain subject to the holder's conversion notice.

Notwithstanding the foregoing, if any shares of Series E Preferred Stock are held in book-entry form through The Depository Trust Company ("DTC") or a similar depository (each, a "Depository"), the conversion notice and/or the notice of withdrawal, as applicable, must comply with applicable procedures, if any, of the applicable Depository.

Series E Preferred Stock as to which the Change of Control Conversion Right has been properly exercised and for which the conversion notice has not been properly withdrawn will be converted into the applicable Conversion Consideration in accordance with the Change of Control Conversion Right on the Change of Control Conversion Date, unless prior to the Change of Control Conversion Date we have provided notice of our election to redeem some or all of the shares of Series E Preferred Stock, as described above under "—Redemption—Optional Redemption" or "—Redemption—Special Optional Redemption Upon Change of Control," in which case only the shares of Series E Preferred Stock properly surrendered for conversion and not properly withdrawn that are not called for redemption will be converted as aforesaid. If we elect to redeem shares of Series E Preferred Stock that would otherwise be converted into the applicable Conversion Consideration on a Change of Control Conversion Date, such shares of Series E Preferred Stock will not be so converted and the holders of such shares will be entitled to receive on the applicable redemption date the redemption price described above under "—Redemption—Optional Redemption" or "—Redemption—Special Optional Redemption Upon Change of Control," as applicable.

We will deliver all securities, cash and any other property owing upon conversion no later than the third business day following the Change of Control Conversion Date. Notwithstanding the foregoing, the persons entitled to receive any shares of our common stock or other securities delivered on conversion will be deemed to have become the holders of record thereof as of the Change of Control Conversion Date.

In connection with the exercise of any Change of Control Conversion Right, we will comply with all federal and state securities laws and stock exchange rules in connection with any conversion of shares of the Series E Preferred Stock into shares of our common stock or other property. Notwithstanding any other provision of the Series E Preferred Stock, no holder of Series E Preferred Stock will be entitled to convert such shares of the Series E Preferred Stock into shares of our common stock to the extent that receipt of such shares of common stock would cause such holder (or any other person) to exceed the applicable share ownership limitations contained in our charter. Please see the section entitled "—Restrictions on Ownership and Transfer."

The Change of Control conversion feature may make it more difficult for a third party to acquire us or discourage a party from acquiring us.

Except as provided above in connection with a Change of Control, the Series E Preferred Stock is not convertible into or exchangeable for any other securities or property.

### Limited Voting Rights

Holders of the Series E Preferred Stock will not have any voting rights, except as set forth below.

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Whenever dividends on any shares of Series E Preferred Stock are in arrears for six or more quarterly dividend periods, whether or not consecutive, the number of directors constituting our board of directors will be automatically increased by two (if not already increased by two by reason of the election of directors by the holders of any other class or series of our preferred stock we have issued or may issue upon which like voting rights have been conferred and are exercisable and with which the Series E Preferred Stock is entitled to vote as a class with respect to the election of those two directors), and the holders of Series E Preferred Stock, voting as a single class with all other classes or series of preferred stock we have issued or may issue upon which like voting rights have been conferred and are exercisable and which are entitled to vote as a class with the Series E Preferred Stock in the election of those two directors will be entitled to vote for the election of those two additional directors at a special meeting called by us at the request of the holders of record of at least 25% of the outstanding shares of Series E Preferred Stock or by the holders of any other class or series of preferred stock upon which like voting rights have been conferred and are exercisable and which are entitled to vote as a class with the Series E Preferred Stock in the election of those two directors (unless the request is received less than 90 days before the date fixed for the next annual or special meeting of stockholders, in which case, such vote will be held at the earlier of the next annual or special meeting of stockholders), and at each subsequent annual meeting until all dividends accumulated on the Series E Preferred Stock for all past dividend periods and the then current dividend period shall have been fully paid or declared and a sum sufficient for the payment thereof set apart for payment. In that case, the right of holders of the Series E Preferred Stock to elect any directors will cease and, unless there are other classes or series of our preferred stock upon which like voting rights have been conferred and are exercisable, the term of office of any directors elected by holders of the Series E Preferred Stock shall immediately terminate and the number of directors constituting the board of directors shall be reduced accordingly. For the avoidance of doubt, in no event shall the total number of directors elected by holders of the Series E Preferred Stock (voting together as a separate class with all other classes or series of preferred stock we may issue upon which like voting rights have been conferred and are exercisable and which are entitled to vote as a class with the Series E Preferred Stock in the election of such directors) pursuant to these voting rights exceed two.

If a special meeting is not called by us within 30 days after request from the holders of Series E Preferred Stock as described above, then the holders of record of at least 25% of the outstanding Series E Preferred Stock may designate a holder to call the meeting at our expense.

On each matter on which holders of Series E Preferred Stock are entitled to vote, each share of Series E Preferred Stock will be entitled to one vote, except that when shares of any other class or series of our preferred stock have the right to vote with the Series E Preferred Stock as a single class on any matter, the Series E Preferred Stock and the shares of each such other class or series will have one vote for each \$25.00 of liquidation preference (excluding accumulated dividends).

So long as any shares of Series E Preferred Stock remain outstanding, we will not, without the affirmative vote or consent of the holders of at least two-thirds of the shares of the Series E Preferred Stock outstanding at the time, voting together as a single class with all series of Preferred Stock ranking on a parity with the Series E Preferred Stock that we may issue and upon which like voting rights have been conferred and are exercisable, given in person or by proxy, either in writing or at a meeting, (a) authorize or create, or increase the authorized or issued amount of, any class or series of capital stock ranking senior to the Series E Preferred Stock with respect to payment of dividends or the distribution of assets upon liquidation, dissolution or winding up or reclassify any of our authorized capital stock into such shares, or create, authorize or issue any obligation or security convertible into or evidencing the right to purchase any such shares; or (b) amend, alter or repeal the provisions of our charter, whether by merger, consolidation or otherwise, so as to materially and adversely affect any right, preference, privilege or voting power of the Series E Preferred Stock (each, an "Event"); provided, however, with respect to the occurrence of any Event set forth in (b) above, so long as the Series E Preferred Stock remains outstanding with the terms thereof materially unchanged, taking into account that, upon an occurrence of an Event, we may not be the surviving entity, the occurrence of any such Event shall not be deemed to materially and adversely affect such rights, preferences, privileges or voting power

of holders of the Series E Preferred Stock and, provided further, that any increase in the amount of the authorized common stock or preferred stock, including the Series E Preferred Stock, or the creation or issuance of any additional Series E Preferred Stock or other series of preferred stock that we may issue, or any increase in the amount of authorized shares of such series, in each case ranking on a parity with or junior to the Series E Preferred Stock that we may issue with respect to payment of dividends or the distribution of assets upon liquidation, dissolution or winding up, shall not be deemed to materially and adversely affect such rights, preferences, privileges or voting powers. Notwithstanding the foregoing, holders of any parity preferred stock shall not be entitled to vote together as a class with the holders of Series E Preferred Stock on any amendment, alteration or repeal of our charter unless such action affects the holders of the Series E Preferred Stock and such parity preferred stock equally.

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The foregoing voting provisions will not apply if, at or prior to the time when the act with respect to which such vote would otherwise be required shall be effected, all outstanding shares of Series E Preferred Stock shall have been redeemed or called for redemption upon proper notice and sufficient funds shall have been deposited in trust to effect such redemption.

Except as expressly stated in the articles supplementary, the Series E Preferred Stock will not have any relative, participating, optional or other special voting rights or powers and the consent of the holders thereof shall not be required for the taking of any corporate action.

### Information Rights

During any period in which we are not subject to Section 13 or 15(d) of the Exchange Act and any shares of Series E Preferred Stock are outstanding, we will use our best efforts to (i) transmit by mail (or other permissible means under the Exchange Act) to all holders of Series E Preferred Stock, as their names and addresses appear on our record books and without cost to such holders, copies of the annual reports on Form 10-K and quarterly reports on Form 10-Q that we would have been required to file with the SEC pursuant to Section 13 or 15(d) of the Exchange Act if we were subject thereto (other than any exhibits that would have been required) and (ii) promptly, upon request, supply copies of such reports to any holders or prospective holder of Series E Preferred Stock. We will use our best effort to mail (or otherwise provide) the information to the holders of the Series E Preferred Stock within 15 days after the respective dates by which a periodic report on Form 10-K or Form 10-Q, as the case may be, in respect of such information would have been required to be filed with the SEC, if we were subject to Section 13 or 15(d) of the Exchange Act, in each case, based on the dates on which we would be required to file such periodic reports if we were a “non-accelerated filer” within the meaning of the Exchange Act.

### Preemptive Rights

No holders of the Series E Preferred Stock will, as holders of Series E Preferred Stock, have any preemptive rights to purchase or subscribe for our common stock or any of our other securities.

### Book-Entry Procedures

DTC will act as securities depository for the Series E Preferred Stock. We will issue one or more fully registered global securities certificates in the name of DTC’s nominee, Cede & Co. These certificates will represent the total aggregate number of shares of Series E Preferred Stock. We will deposit these certificates with DTC or a custodian appointed by DTC. We will not issue certificates to you for shares of Series E Preferred Stock, unless DTC’s services are discontinued as described below.

Title to book-entry interests in the Series E Preferred Stock will pass by book-entry registration of the transfer within the records of DTC in accordance with its procedures. Book-entry interests in the securities may be transferred within DTC in accordance with procedures established for these purposes by DTC. Each person owning a beneficial interest in shares of the Series E Preferred Stock must rely on the procedures of DTC and the participant through which such person owns its interest to exercise its rights as a holder of the Series E Preferred Stock.

DTC has advised us that it is a limited-purpose trust company organized under the New York Banking Law, a member of the Federal Reserve System, a “clearing corporation” within the meaning of the New York Uniform Commercial Code and a “clearing agency” registered under the provisions of Section 17A of the Exchange Act. DTC holds securities that its participants (“Direct Participants”) deposit with DTC. DTC also facilitates the settlement among Direct Participants of securities transactions, such as transfers and pledges, in deposited securities through electronic computerized book-entry changes in Direct Participants’ accounts, thereby eliminating the need for physical movement of securities certificates. Direct Participants include securities brokers and dealers, banks, trust companies, clearing

corporations, and certain other organizations. Access to the DTC system is also available to others such as securities brokers and dealers, including the underwriters, banks and trust companies that clear through or maintain a custodial relationship with a Direct Participant, either directly or indirectly (“Indirect Participants”). The rules applicable to DTC and its Direct and Indirect Participants are on file with the SEC.

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When you purchase shares of Series E Preferred Stock within the DTC system, the purchase must be by or through a Direct Participant. The Direct Participant will receive a credit for the Series E Preferred Stock on DTC's records. You will be considered to be the "beneficial owner" of the Series E Preferred Stock. Your beneficial ownership interest will be recorded on the Direct and Indirect Participants' records, but DTC will have no knowledge of your individual ownership. DTC's records reflect only the identity of the Direct Participants to whose accounts shares of Series E Preferred Stock are credited.

You will not receive written confirmation from DTC of your purchase. The Direct or Indirect Participants through whom you purchased the Series E Preferred Stock should send you written confirmations providing details of your transactions, as well as periodic statements of your holdings. The Direct and Indirect Participants are responsible for keeping an accurate account of the holdings of their customers like you.

Transfers of ownership interests held through Direct and Indirect Participants will be accomplished by entries on the books of Direct and Indirect Participants acting on behalf of the beneficial owners.

Conveyance of notices and other communications by DTC to Direct Participants, by Direct Participants to Indirect Participants, and by Direct Participants and Indirect Participants to beneficial owners will be governed by arrangements among them, subject to any statutory or regulatory requirements as may be in effect from time to time.

We understand that, under DTC's existing practices, in the event that we request any action of the holders, or an owner of a beneficial interest in a global security, such as you, desires to take any action which a holder is entitled to take under our charter (including the Articles Supplementary), DTC would authorize the Direct Participants holding the relevant shares to take such action, and those Direct Participants and any Indirect Participants would authorize beneficial owners owning through those Direct and Indirect Participants to take such action or would otherwise act upon the instructions of beneficial owners owning through them.

Any redemption notices with respect to the Series E Preferred Stock will be sent to Cede & Co. If less than all of the outstanding shares of Series E Preferred Stock are being redeemed, DTC will reduce each Direct Participant's holdings of shares of Series E Preferred Stock in accordance with its procedures.

In those instances where a vote is required, neither DTC nor Cede & Co. itself will consent or vote with respect to the shares of Series E Preferred Stock. Under its usual procedures, DTC would mail an omnibus proxy to us as soon as possible after the record date. The omnibus proxy assigns Cede & Co.'s consenting or voting rights to those Direct Participants whose accounts the shares of Series E Preferred Stock are credited to on the record date, which are identified in a listing attached to the omnibus proxy.

Dividends on the Series E Preferred Stock will be made directly to DTC's nominee (or its successor, if applicable). DTC's practice is to credit participants' accounts on the relevant payment date in accordance with their respective holdings shown on DTC's records unless DTC has reason to believe that it will not receive payment on that payment date.

Payments by Direct and Indirect Participants to beneficial owners will be governed by standing instructions and customary practices, as is the case with securities held for the accounts of customers in bearer form or registered in "street name." These payments will be the responsibility of the participant and not of DTC, us or any agent of ours.

DTC may discontinue providing its services as securities depository with respect to the Series E Preferred Stock at any time by giving reasonable notice to us. Additionally, we may decide to discontinue the book-entry only system of transfers with respect to the Series E Preferred Stock. In that event, we will print and deliver certificates in fully registered form for the Series E Preferred Stock. If DTC notifies us that it is unwilling to continue as securities depository, or it is unable to continue or ceases to be a clearing agency registered under the Exchange Act and a



successor depository is not appointed by us within 90 days after receiving such notice or becoming aware that DTC is no longer so registered, we will issue the Series E Preferred Stock in definitive form, at our expense, upon registration of transfer of, or in exchange for, such global security.

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According to DTC, the foregoing information with respect to DTC has been provided to the financial community for informational purposes only and is not intended to serve as a representation, warranty or contract modification of any kind.

### Global Clearance and Settlement Procedures

Secondary market trading among DTC's Participants will occur in the ordinary way in accordance with DTC's rules and will be settled in immediately available funds using DTC's Same-Day Funds Settlement System.

### DESCRIPTION OF OUR DEBT SECURITIES

The following description, together with the additional information we include in any applicable prospectus supplements, summarizes the material terms and provisions of the debt securities that we may offer under this prospectus. While the terms we have summarized below will apply generally to any future debt securities we may offer, we will describe the particular terms of any debt securities that we may offer in more detail in the applicable prospectus supplement. If we indicate in a prospectus supplement, the terms of any debt securities we offer under that prospectus supplement may differ from the terms we describe below.

The debt securities will be our direct unsecured general obligations and may include debentures, notes, bonds or other evidences of indebtedness. The debt securities will be either senior debt securities or subordinated debt securities. The debt securities will be issued under one or more separate indentures. Senior debt securities will be issued under a senior indenture, and subordinated debt securities will be issued under a subordinated indenture. We use the term "indentures" to refer to both the senior indenture and the subordinated indenture. The forms of indentures are filed as exhibits to the registration statement of which this prospectus forms a part. The indentures will be qualified under the Trust Indenture Act of 1939, as amended. We use the term "trustee" to refer to either the senior trustee or the subordinated trustee, as applicable.

The following summaries of material provisions of the debt securities and indentures are subject to, and qualified in their entirety by reference to, all the provisions of the indenture applicable to a particular series of debt securities.

#### General

We will describe in each prospectus supplement the following terms relating to a series of debt securities:

- the title;
- any limit on the amount that may be issued;
- whether or not we will issue the series of debt securities in global form, the terms and who the depository will be;
- the maturity date;
- the annual interest rate, which may be fixed or variable, or the method for determining the rate and the date interest will begin to accrue, the dates interest will be payable and the regular record dates for interest payment dates or the method for determining such dates;
- whether or not the debt securities will be secured or unsecured, and the terms of any secured debt;
- the terms of the subordination of any series of subordinated debt;



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- the place where payments will be payable;
- our right, if any, to defer payment of interest and the maximum length of any such deferral period;
- the date, if any, after which, and the price at which, we may, at our option, redeem the series of debt securities pursuant to any optional redemption provisions;
- the date, if any, on which, and the price at which we are obligated, pursuant to any mandatory sinking fund provisions or otherwise, to redeem, or at the holder's option to purchase, the series of debt securities;
- whether the indenture will restrict our ability to pay dividends, or will require us to maintain any asset ratios or reserves;
- whether we will be restricted from incurring any additional indebtedness;
- a discussion on any material or special United States federal income tax considerations applicable to the debt securities;
- the denominations in which we will issue the series of debt securities, if other than denominations of \$1,000 and any integral multiple thereof; and
  - any other specific terms, preferences, rights or limitations of, or restrictions on, the debt securities not inconsistent with the applicable indentures.

We may issue debt securities at less than the principal amount payable at maturity. We refer to these securities as "original issue discount" securities. If material or applicable, we will describe in the applicable prospectus supplement special US federal income tax, accounting and other considerations applicable to original issue discount securities.

Consolidation, Merger or Sale

Under the terms of the indentures, we would be generally permitted to consolidate or merge with another company. We would be also permitted to sell, convey, transfer, lease or otherwise dispose of all or substantially all of our assets to another company. However, we would not be able to take any of these actions unless the following conditions are met:

- if we merge out of existence or sell our assets, the other company must be an entity organized under the laws of one of the states of the United States or the District of Columbia or under United States federal law and must agree to be legally responsible for our debt securities; and
- immediately after the merger, sale of assets or other transaction, we may not be in default on the debt securities.

Events of Default Under the Indenture

The following are events of default under the indentures with respect to any series of debt securities that we may issue:

- if we fail to pay the principal or any premium on a debt security when due, for more than a specified number of days past the due date;
- if we fail to pay interest on a debt security when due, for more than a specified number of days past the due date;



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- if we fail to deposit any sinking fund payment when due, for more than a specified number of days past the due date;
- if we fail to observe or perform any other covenant contained in the debt securities or the indentures, other than a covenant specifically relating to another series of debt securities, and our failure continues for a number of days to be stated in the indenture after we receive notice from the trustee or holders of at least 25% in aggregate principal amount of the outstanding debt securities of the applicable series; and
- if specified events of bankruptcy, insolvency or reorganization occur as to us.

If an event of default with respect to debt securities of any series occurs and is continuing, the trustee or the holders of at least 25% in aggregate principal amount of the outstanding debt securities of that series, by notice to us in writing, and to the trustee if notice is given by such holders, may declare the unpaid principal of, premium, if any, and accrued interest, if any, due and payable immediately.

The holders of a majority in principal amount of the outstanding debt securities of an affected series may waive any default or event of default with respect to the series and its consequences, except defaults or events of default regarding payment of principal, premium, if any, or interest, unless we have cured the default or event of default in accordance with the indenture. Any waiver shall cure the default or event of default.

Subject to the terms of the indentures, if an event of default under an indenture shall occur and be continuing, the trustee will be under no obligation to exercise any of its rights or powers under such indenture at the request or direction of any of the holders of the applicable series of debt securities, unless such holders have offered the trustee reasonable indemnity. The holders of a majority in principal amount of the outstanding debt securities of any series will have the right to direct the time, method and place of conducting any proceeding for any remedy available to the trustee, or exercising any trust or power conferred on the trustee, with respect to the debt securities of that series, provided that:

- the direction so given by the holder is not in conflict with any law or the applicable indenture; and
- subject to its duties under the Trust Indenture Act, the trustee need not take any action that might involve it in personal liability or might be unduly prejudicial to the holders not involved in the proceeding.

A holder of the debt securities of any series will only have the right to institute a proceeding under the indentures or to appoint a receiver or trustee, or to seek other remedies if:

- the holder has given written notice to the trustee of a continuing event of default with respect to that series;
- the holders of at least 25% in aggregate principal amount of the outstanding debt securities of that series have made written request, and such holders have offered reasonable indemnity to the trustee to institute the proceeding as trustee;
- the trustee does not institute the proceeding, and does not receive from the holders of a majority in aggregate principal amount of the outstanding debt securities of that series other conflicting directions within 60 days after the notice, request and offer; and
- no direction inconsistent with such written request has been given to the trustee during such 60-day period by the holders of a majority in principal amount of the debt securities of that series.

These limitations do not apply to a suit instituted by a holder of debt securities if we default in the payment of the principal, premium, if any, or interest on, the debt securities.

We will periodically file statements with the trustee regarding our compliance with specified covenants in the indentures.

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Modification of Indenture; Waiver

We and the trustee may change an indenture without the consent of any holders with respect to specific matters, including:

- to fix any ambiguity, defect or inconsistency in the indenture; and
- to change anything that does not materially adversely affect the interests of any holder of debt securities of any series.

In addition, under the indentures, the rights of holders of a series of debt securities may be changed by us and the trustee with the written consent of the holders of at least a majority in aggregate principal amount of the outstanding debt securities of each series that is affected. However, we and the trustee may only make the following changes with the consent of each holder of any outstanding debt securities affected:

- changing the stated maturity of the principal or interest on a series of debt securities;
- reducing the principal amount, reducing the rate of or extending the time of payment of interest, or any premium payable upon the redemption of any debt securities;
- changing the currency of payment on a debt security;
- impair your right to sue for payment;
- modify the subordination provisions, if any, in a manner that is adverse to you;
- reducing the percentage of debt securities the holders of which are required to consent to any amendment; or
- modify any of the foregoing provisions.

Certain Covenants

The indentures contain certain covenants requiring us to take certain actions and prohibiting us from taking certain actions, including the following:

- we must maintain a paying agent in each place of payment for the debt securities;
- we will do or cause to be done all things necessary to preserve and keep in full force and effect our existence; and
- we will cause all properties used or useful in the conduct of our business to be maintained and kept in good condition.

Any additional or different covenants or modifications to the foregoing covenants with respect to any series of debt securities will be described in the applicable prospectus supplement.

Redemption

The indentures provide that the debt securities of any series that are redeemable may be redeemed at any time at our option, in whole or in part. Debt securities may also be subject to optional or mandatory redemption on terms and conditions described in the applicable prospectus supplement.





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From and after notice has been given as provided in the applicable indenture, if funds for the redemption of any debt securities called for redemption shall have been made available on such redemption date, such debt securities will cease to bear interest on the date fixed for such redemption specified in such notice, and the only right of the holders of the debt securities will be to receive payment of the redemption price.

### Discharge, Defeasance and Covenant Defeasance

To the extent stated in the prospectus supplement, we may elect to apply the provisions in the indentures relating to defeasance and discharge of indebtedness, or to defeasance of restrictive covenants, to the debt securities of any series. The indentures provide that, upon satisfaction of the requirements described below, we may terminate all of our obligations under the debt securities of any series and the applicable indenture, known as legal defeasance, other than our obligation:

- to maintain a registrar and paying agents and hold monies for payment in trust;
- to register the transfer or exchange of the debt securities; and
- to replace mutilated, destroyed, lost or stolen debt securities.

In addition, we may terminate our obligation to comply with any restrictive covenants under the debt securities of any series or the applicable indenture, known as covenant defeasance.

We may exercise our legal defeasance option even if we have previously exercised our covenant defeasance option. If we exercise either defeasance option, payment of the debt securities may not be accelerated because of the occurrence of events of default.

To exercise either defeasance option as to debt securities of any series, we must irrevocably deposit in trust with the trustee money and/or obligations backed by the full faith and credit of the United States that will provide money in an amount sufficient in the written opinion of a nationally recognized firm of independent public accountants to pay the principal of, premium, if any, and each installment of interest on the debt securities. We may only establish this trust if, among other things:

- no event of default shall have occurred or be continuing;

in the case of legal defeasance, we have delivered to the trustee an opinion of counsel to the effect that we have received from, or there has been published by, the Internal Revenue Service a ruling or there has been a change in law, which in the opinion of our counsel, provides that holders of the debt securities will not recognize gain or loss for federal income tax purposes as a result of such deposit, defeasance and discharge and will be subject to federal income tax on the same amount, in the same manner and at the same times as would have been the case if such deposit, defeasance and discharge had not occurred;

in the case of covenant defeasance, we have delivered to the trustee an opinion of counsel to the effect that the holders of the debt securities will not recognize gain or loss for federal income tax purposes as a result of such deposit and covenant defeasance and will be subject to federal income tax on the same amount, in the same manner and at the same times as would have been the case if such deposit and covenant defeasance had not occurred; and

- we satisfy other customary conditions precedent described in the applicable indenture.

### Conversion and Exchange of Securities

The terms and conditions, if any, upon which any debt securities are convertible or exchangeable into debt securities, common stock, preferred stock or other securities or property will be set forth in the applicable prospectus supplement relating thereto. Such terms will include:

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- whether such debt securities are convertible or exchangeable into debt securities, common stock, preferred stock or other securities or property;
- the conversion price (or manner of calculation thereof);
- the conversion period;
- provisions as to whether conversion will be at the option of the holders or us;
- the events requiring an adjustment of the conversion price and provisions affecting conversion in the event of the redemption of such debt securities; and
- any restrictions on conversion, including restrictions directed at maintaining our REIT status.

Form, Exchange and Transfer

We will issue the debt securities of each series only in fully registered form without coupons and, unless we otherwise specify in the applicable prospectus supplement, in denominations of \$1,000 and any integral multiple thereof. The indentures provide that we may issue debt securities of a series in temporary or permanent global form and as book-entry securities that will be deposited with, or on behalf of, The Depository Trust Company or another depository named by us and identified in a prospectus supplement with respect to that series.

At the option of the holder, subject to the terms of the indentures and the limitations applicable to global securities described in the applicable prospectus supplement, the holder of the debt securities of any series can exchange the debt securities for other debt securities of the same series, in any authorized denomination and of like tenor and aggregate principal amount.

Subject to the terms of the indentures and the limitations applicable to global securities set forth in the applicable prospectus supplement, holders of the debt securities may present the debt securities for exchange or for registration of transfer, duly endorsed or with the form of transfer endorsed thereon duly executed if so required by us or the security registrar, at the office of the security registrar or at the office of any transfer agent designated by us for this purpose. Unless otherwise provided in the debt securities that the holder presents for transfer or exchange, we will make no service charge for any registration of transfer or exchange, but we may require payment of any taxes or other governmental charges.

We will name in the applicable prospectus supplement the security registrar, and any transfer agent in addition to the security registrar, that we initially designate for any debt securities. We may at any time designate additional transfer agents or rescind the designation of any transfer agent or approve a change in the office through which any transfer agent acts, except that we will be required to maintain a transfer agent in each place of payment for the debt securities of each series.

If we elect to redeem the debt securities of any series, we will not be required to:

- issue, register the transfer of, or exchange any debt securities of that series during a period beginning at the opening of business 15 days before the day of mailing of a notice of redemption of any debt securities that may be selected for redemption and ending at the close of business on the day of the mailing; or
- register the transfer of or exchange any debt securities so selected for redemption, in whole or in part, except the unredeemed portion of any debt securities we are redeeming in part.

Information Concerning the Trustee

The trustee, other than during the occurrence and continuance of an event of default under an indenture, undertakes to perform only those duties as are specifically set forth in the applicable indenture. Upon an event of default under an indenture, the trustee must use the same degree of care as a prudent person would exercise or use in the conduct of his or her own affairs. Subject to this provision, the trustee is under no obligation to exercise any of the powers given it by the indentures at the request of any holder of debt securities unless it is offered reasonable security and indemnity against the costs, expenses and liabilities that it might incur.

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### Payment and Paying Agents

Unless we otherwise indicate in the applicable prospectus supplement, we will make payment of the interest on any debt securities on any interest payment date to the person in whose name the debt securities, or one or more predecessor securities, are registered at the close of business on the regular record date for the interest.

We will pay principal of and any premium and interest on the debt securities of a particular series at the office of the paying agents designated by us, except that unless we otherwise indicate in the applicable prospectus supplement, we will make interest payments by check which we will mail to the holder. Unless we otherwise indicate in a prospectus supplement, we will designate the corporate trust office of the trustee in the City of New York as our sole paying agent for payments with respect to debt securities of each series. We will name in the applicable prospectus supplement any other paying agents that we initially designate for the debt securities of a particular series. We will maintain a paying agent in each place of payment for the debt securities of a particular series.

All money we pay to a paying agent or the trustee for the payment of the principal of or any premium or interest on any debt securities which remains unclaimed at the end of two years after such principal, premium or interest has become due and payable will be repaid to us, and the holder of the security thereafter may look only to us for payment thereof.

### Subordination

The prospectus supplement relating to any offering of subordinated debt securities will describe the specific subordination provisions. However, unless otherwise noted in the prospectus supplement, subordinated debt securities will be subordinate and junior in right of payment to senior indebtedness.

The indebtedness underlying any subordinated debt securities will be payable only if all payments due under our senior indebtedness, as defined in the applicable indenture and any indenture supplement, including any outstanding senior debt securities, have been made. If we distribute our assets to creditors upon any dissolution, winding-up, liquidation or reorganization or in bankruptcy, insolvency, receivership or similar proceedings, we must first pay all amounts due or to become due on all senior indebtedness before we pay the principal of, or any premium or interest on, the subordinated debt securities. In the event the subordinated debt securities are accelerated because of an event of default, we may not make any payment on the subordinated debt securities until we have paid all senior indebtedness or the acceleration is rescinded.

By reason of such subordination, if we experience a bankruptcy, dissolution or reorganization, holders of senior indebtedness may receive more, ratably, and holders of subordinated debt securities may receive less, ratably, than our other creditors. The indenture for subordinated debt securities may not limit our ability to incur additional senior or subordinated indebtedness.

### Governing Law

The indentures and the debt securities will be governed by and construed in accordance with the laws of the State of New York, except to the extent that the Trust Indenture Act is applicable.

### DESCRIPTION OF OUR WARRANTS

This section describes the general terms and provisions of our securities warrants. The applicable prospectus supplement will describe the specific terms of the securities warrants offered through that prospectus supplement as well as any general terms described in this section that will not apply to those securities warrants.



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We may issue securities warrants for the purchase of our debt securities, preferred stock, or common stock. We may issue warrants independently or together with other securities, and they may be attached to or separate from the other securities. Each series of securities warrants will be issued under a separate warrant agreement that we will enter into with a bank or trust company, as warrant agent, as detailed in the applicable prospectus supplement. The warrant agent will act solely as our agent in connection with the securities warrants and will not assume any obligation, or agency or trust relationship, with you.

The prospectus supplement relating to a particular issue of securities warrants will describe the terms of those securities warrants, including, where applicable:

- the aggregate number of the securities covered by the warrant;
- the designation, amount and terms of the securities purchasable upon exercise of the warrant;
- the exercise price for our debt securities, the amount of debt securities upon exercise you will receive, and a description of that series of debt securities;
- the exercise price for shares of our preferred stock, the number of shares of preferred stock to be received upon exercise, and a description of that series of our preferred stock;
- the exercise price for shares of our common stock and the number of shares of common stock to be received upon exercise;
- the expiration date for exercising the warrant;
- the minimum or maximum amount of warrants that may be exercised at any time;
- a discussion of U.S. federal income tax consequences; and
- any other material terms of the securities warrants.

After the warrants expire they will become void. The prospectus supplement will describe how to exercise securities warrants. A holder must exercise warrants for our preferred stock or common stock through payment in U.S. dollars. All securities warrants will be issued in registered form. The prospectus supplement may provide for the adjustment of the exercise price of the securities warrants.

Until a holder exercises warrants to purchase our debt securities, preferred stock, or common stock, that holder will not have any rights as a holder of our debt securities, preferred stock, or common stock by virtue of ownership of warrants.

### BOOK-ENTRY SECURITIES

The securities offered by means of this prospectus may be issued in whole or in part in book-entry form, meaning that beneficial owners of the securities will not receive certificates representing their ownership interests in the securities, except in the event the book-entry system for the securities is discontinued. Securities issued in book entry form will be evidenced by one or more global securities that will be deposited with, or on behalf of, a depository identified in the applicable prospectus supplement relating to the securities. We expect that The Depository Trust Company will serve as depository. Unless and until it is exchanged in whole or in part for the individual securities represented by that security, a global security may not be transferred except as a whole by the depository for the global security to a nominee of that depository or by a nominee of that depository to that depository or another nominee of that depository



or by the depository or any nominee of that depository to a successor depository or a nominee of that successor. Global securities may be issued in either registered or bearer form and in either temporary or permanent form. The specific terms of the depository arrangement with respect to a class or series of securities that differ from the terms described here will be described in the applicable prospectus supplement.

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Unless otherwise indicated in the applicable prospectus supplement, we anticipate that the provisions described below will apply to depository arrangements.

Upon the issuance of a global security, the depository for the global security or its nominee will credit on its book-entry registration and transfer system the respective principal amounts of the individual securities represented by that global security to the accounts of persons that have accounts with such depository, who are called “participants.” Those accounts will be designated by the underwriters, dealers or agents with respect to the securities or by us if the securities are offered and sold directly by us. Ownership of beneficial interests in a global security will be limited to the depository’s participants or persons that may hold interests through those participants. Ownership of beneficial interests in the global security will be shown on, and the transfer of that ownership will be effected only through, records maintained by the applicable depository or its nominee (with respect to beneficial interests of participants) and records of the participants (with respect to beneficial interests of persons who hold through participants). The laws of some states require that certain purchasers of securities take physical delivery of such securities in definitive form. These limits and laws may impair the ability to own, pledge or transfer beneficial interest in a global security.

So long as the depository for a global security or its nominee is the registered owner of such global security, that depository or nominee, as the case may be, will be considered the sole owner or holder of the securities represented by that global security for all purposes under the applicable indenture or other instrument defining the rights of a holder of the securities. Except as provided below or in the applicable prospectus supplement, owners of beneficial interest in a global security will not be entitled to have any of the individual securities of the series represented by that global security registered in their names, will not receive or be entitled to receive physical delivery of any such securities in definitive form and will not be considered the owners or holders of that security under the applicable indenture or other instrument defining the rights of the holders of the securities.

Payments of amounts payable with respect to individual securities represented by a global security registered in the name of a depository or its nominee will be made to the depository or its nominee, as the case may be, as the registered owner of the global security representing those securities. None of us, our officers and directors or any trustee, paying agent or security registrar for an individual series of securities will have any responsibility or liability for any aspect of the records relating to or payments made on account of beneficial ownership interests in the global security for such securities or for maintaining, supervising or reviewing any records relating to those beneficial ownership interests.

We expect that the depository for a series of securities offered by means of this prospectus or its nominee, upon receipt of any payment of principal, premium, interest, dividend or other amount in respect of a permanent global security representing any of those securities, will immediately credit its participants’ accounts with payments in amounts proportionate to their respective beneficial interests in the principal amount of that global security for those securities as shown on the records of that depository or its nominee. We also expect that payments by participants to owners of beneficial interests in that global security held through those participants will be governed by standing instructions and customary practices, as is the case with securities held for the account of customers in bearer form or registered in “street name.” Those payments will be the responsibility of these participants.

If a depository for a series of securities is at any time unwilling, unable or ineligible to continue as depository and a successor depository is not appointed by us within 90 days, we will issue individual securities of that series in exchange for the global security representing that series of securities. In addition, we may, at any time and in our sole discretion, subject to any limitations described in the applicable prospectus supplement relating to those securities, determine not to have any securities of that series represented by one or more global securities and, in that event, will issue individual securities of that series in exchange for the global security or securities representing that series of securities.

**MATERIAL PROVISIONS OF MARYLAND LAW AND OF OUR CHARTER AND BYLAWS**

The following is a summary of certain provisions of Maryland law and of our charter and bylaws. Copies of our charter and bylaws are filed as exhibits to the registration statement of which this prospectus is a part. See “Where You Can Find More Information.”

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The Board of Directors

Our bylaws provide that the number of directors of our company may be established by our board of directors but may not be fewer than the minimum number permitted under the MGCL nor more than 25. Any vacancy will be filled, at any regular meeting or at any special meeting called for that purpose, by a majority of the remaining directors.

Pursuant to our charter, each member of our board of directors will serve one year terms and until their successors are elected and qualified. Holders of shares of our common stock will have no right to cumulative voting in the election of directors.

Consequently, at each annual meeting of stockholders at which our board of directors is elected, the holders of a plurality of the shares of our common stock will be able to elect all of the members of our board of directors.

Business Combinations

Maryland law prohibits “business combinations” between a corporation and an interested stockholder or an affiliate of an interested stockholder for five years after the most recent date on which the interested stockholder becomes an interested stockholder. These business combinations include a merger, consolidation, statutory share exchange, or, in circumstances specified in the statute, certain transfers of assets, certain stock issuances and transfers, liquidation plans and reclassifications involving interested stockholders and their affiliates as asset transfer or issuance or reclassification of equity securities. Maryland law defines an interested stockholder as:

- any person who beneficially owns 10% or more of the voting power of our voting stock; or
- an affiliate or associate of the corporation who, at any time within the two-year period prior to the date in question, was the beneficial owner of 10% or more of the voting power of the then-outstanding voting stock of the corporation.

A person is not an interested stockholder if the board of directors approves in advance the transaction by which the person otherwise would have become an interested stockholder. However, in approving the transaction, the board of directors may provide that its approval is subject to compliance, at or after the time of approval, with any terms and conditions determined by the board of directors.

After the five year prohibition, any business combination between a corporation and an interested stockholder generally must be recommended by the board of directors and approved by the affirmative vote of at least:

- 80% of the votes entitled to be cast by holders of the then outstanding shares of common stock; and
- two-thirds of the votes entitled to be cast by holders of the common stock other than shares held by the interested stockholder with whom or with whose affiliate the business combination is to be effected or shares held by an affiliate or associate of the interested stockholder.

These super-majority vote requirements do not apply if certain fair price requirements set forth in the MGCL are satisfied.

The statute permits various exemptions from its provisions, including business combinations that are approved by the board of directors before the time that the interested stockholder becomes an interested stockholder. Under the statute, a board of directors may adopt a resolution opting generally or partially out of this statute. Our Board of Directors has not taken any action to opt out of this statute.



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Control Share Acquisitions

The MGCL provides that “control shares” of a Maryland corporation acquired in a “control share acquisition” have no voting rights except to the extent approved at a special meeting by the affirmative vote of two-thirds of the votes entitled to be cast on the matter, excluding shares of stock in a corporation in respect of which any of the following persons is entitled to exercise or direct the exercise of the voting power of shares of stock of the corporation in the election of directors: (i) a person who makes or proposes to make a control share acquisition, (ii) an officer of the corporation or (iii) an employee of the corporation who is also a director of the corporation. “Control shares” are voting shares of stock which, if aggregated with all other such shares of stock previously acquired by the acquiror or in respect of which the acquiror is able to exercise or direct the exercise of voting power (except solely by virtue of a revocable proxy), would entitle the acquiror to exercise voting power in electing directors within one of the following ranges of voting power: (i) one-tenth or more but less than one-third, (ii) one-third or more but less than a majority, or (iii) a majority or more of all voting power. Control shares do not include shares the acquiring person is then entitled to vote as a result of having previously obtained stockholder approval. A “control share acquisition” means the acquisition of control shares, subject to certain exceptions.

A person who has made or proposes to make a control share acquisition, upon satisfaction of certain conditions (including an undertaking to pay expenses), may compel our board of directors to call a special meeting of stockholders to be held within 50 days of demand to consider the voting rights of the shares. If no request for a meeting is made, the corporation may itself present the question at any stockholders meeting.

If voting rights are not approved at the meeting or if the acquiring person does not deliver an acquiring person statement as required by the statute, then, subject to certain conditions and limitations, the corporation may redeem any or all of the control shares (except those for which voting rights have previously been approved) for fair value determined, without regard to the absence of voting rights for the control shares, as of the date of the last control share acquisition by the acquiror or of any meeting of stockholders at which the voting rights of such shares are considered and not approved. If voting rights for control shares are approved at a stockholders meeting and the acquiror becomes entitled to vote a majority of the shares entitled to vote, all other stockholders may exercise appraisal rights. The fair value of the shares as determined for purposes of such appraisal rights may not be less than the highest price per share paid by the acquiror in the control share acquisition.

The control share acquisition statute does not apply (i) to shares acquired in a merger, consolidation or share exchange if the corporation is a party to the transaction or (ii) to acquisitions approved or exempted by the charter or bylaws of the corporation. Under this statute, our charter or by-laws may provide for a general or partial opt-out from this statute, but our charter and by-laws do not so provide.

Maryland Unsolicited Takeovers Act

Subtitle 8 of Title 3 of the MGCL permits a Maryland corporation with a class of equity securities registered under the Exchange Act, and at least three independent directors to elect to be subject, by provision in its charter or bylaws or a resolution of its board of directors, to any or all of five provisions:

- a classified board;
- a two-thirds vote requirement for removing a director;
- a requirement that the number of directors be fixed only by vote of directors;
- a requirement that a vacancy on the board be filled only by the remaining directors and for the remainder of the full term of the directorship in which the vacancy occurred; and

·a majority requirement for the calling of a special meeting of stockholders.

Through an unrelated provision of Maryland law, our by-laws impose a majority requirement for the calling of a special meeting of stockholders. Under Subtitle 8, the charter may contain a provision or the board of directors may adopt a provision that prohibits the corporation from electing to be subject to any or all of these provisions. The Corporation is not subject to such a prohibition.

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### Amendment to Our Charter

Our charter may be amended only if declared advisable by the board of directors and approved by the affirmative vote of the holders of at least a majority of all of the votes entitled to be cast on the matter.

### Dissolution of Our Company

The dissolution of our company must be declared advisable by the board of directors and approved by the affirmative vote of the holders of not less than a majority of all of the votes entitled to be cast on the matter.

### Advance Notice of Director Nominations and New Business

Our bylaws provide that:

with respect to an annual meeting of stockholders, the only business to be considered and the only proposals to be acted upon will be those properly brought before the annual meeting:

- pursuant to our notice of the meeting;

- by, or at the direction of, a majority of our board of directors; or

- by a stockholder who is entitled to vote at the meeting and has complied with the advance notice procedures set forth in our bylaws;

with respect to special meetings of stockholders, only the business specified in our company's notice of meeting may be brought before the meeting of stockholders unless otherwise provided by law; and

nominations of persons for election to our board of directors at any annual or special meeting of stockholders may be made only:

- by, or at the direction of, our board of directors; or

- by a stockholder who is entitled to vote at the meeting and has complied with the advance notice provisions set forth in our bylaws.

### Anti-Takeover Effect of Certain Provisions of Maryland Law and of Our Charter and Bylaws

The advance notice provisions of our bylaws could delay, defer or prevent a transaction or a change of control of our company that might involve a premium price for holders of our common stock or otherwise be in their best interest.

### Indemnification and Limitation of Directors' and Officers' Liability

Our charter provide for indemnification of our officers and directors against liabilities to the fullest extent permitted by the MGCL, as amended from time to time.

The MGCL permits a corporation to indemnify a director or officer who has been successful, on the merits or otherwise, in the defense of any proceeding to which he or she is made a party by reason of his or her service in that capacity. The MGCL permits a corporation to indemnify its present and former directors and officers, among others, against judgments, penalties, fines, settlements and reasonable expenses actually incurred by them in connection with any proceeding to which they may be made a party by reason of their service in those or other capacities unless it is



established that:

·an act or omission of the director or officer was material to the matter giving rise to the proceeding and:

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- was committed in bad faith; or
  - was the result of active and deliberate dishonesty;
  - the director or officer actually received an improper personal benefit in money, property or services; or
- in the case of any criminal proceeding, the director or officer had reasonable cause to believe that the act or omission was unlawful.

However, under the MGCL, a Maryland corporation may not indemnify for an adverse judgment in a suit by or in the right of the corporation (other than for expenses incurred in a successful defense of such an action) or for a judgment of liability on the basis that personal benefit was improperly received. In addition, the MGCL permits a corporation to advance reasonable expenses to a director or officer upon the corporation's receipt of:

a written affirmation by the director or officer of his good faith belief that he has met the standard of conduct necessary for indemnification by the corporation; and

a written undertaking by the director or on the director's behalf to repay the amount paid or reimbursed by the corporation if it is ultimately determined that the director did not meet the standard of conduct.

Our bylaws obligate us, to the fullest extent permitted by Maryland law in effect from time to time, to indemnify and, without requiring a preliminary determination of the ultimate entitlement to indemnification, pay or reimburse reasonable expenses in advance of final disposition of a proceeding to:

any present or former director or officer who is made a party to the proceeding by reason of his or her service in that capacity; or

any individual who, while a director or officer of our company and at our request, serves or has served another corporation, real estate investment trust, partnership, joint venture, trust, employee benefit plan or any other enterprise as a director, officer, partner or trustee and who is made a party to the proceeding by reason of his or her service in that capacity.

Our bylaws also obligate us to indemnify and advance expenses to any person who served a predecessor of ours in any of the capacities described in second and third bullet points above and to any employee or agent of our company or a predecessor of our company.

Insofar as the foregoing provisions permit indemnification of directors, officers or persons controlling us for liability arising under the Securities Act, we have been informed that in the opinion of the Securities and Exchange Commission, this indemnification is against public policy as expressed in the Securities Act and is therefore unenforceable.

#### FEDERAL INCOME TAX CONSEQUENCES OF OUR STATUS AS A REIT

The following discussion is a summary of the material federal income tax considerations that may be relevant to a prospective holder of securities, and, unless otherwise noted in the following discussion, expresses the opinion of Andrews Kurth LLP insofar as it relates to matters of United States federal income tax law and legal conclusions with respect to those matters. The discussion does not address all aspects of taxation that may be relevant to particular investors in light of their personal investment or tax circumstances, or to certain types of investors that are subject to special treatment under the federal income tax laws, such as insurance companies, financial institutions or broker-dealers, tax-exempt organizations (except to the limited extent discussed in “— Taxation of Tax-Exempt

Stockholders”), foreign corporations and persons who are not citizens or residents of the United States (except to the limited extent discussed in “— Taxation of Non-U.S. Holders”), investors who hold or will hold securities as part of hedging or conversion transactions, investors subject to federal alternative minimum tax, investors that have a principal place of business or “tax home” outside the United States and investors whose functional currency is not the United States dollar. This summary assumes that stockholders will hold the securities as capital assets.

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The statements of law in this discussion and the opinion of Andrews Kurth LLP are based on current provisions of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended, or the “Code,” existing temporary and final Treasury regulations thereunder, and current administrative rulings and court decisions. No assurance can be given that future legislative, judicial, or administrative actions or decisions, which may be retroactive in effect, will not affect the accuracy of any statements in this prospectus with respect to the transactions entered into or contemplated prior to the effective date of such changes. No assurance can be given that the Internal Revenue Service would not assert, or that a court would not sustain, a position contrary to any tax consequences described below

We urge you to consult your own tax advisor regarding the specific tax consequences to you of ownership of our securities and of our election to be taxed as a REIT. Specifically, we urge you to consult your own tax advisor regarding the federal, state, local, foreign, and other tax consequences of such ownership and election and regarding potential changes in applicable tax laws.

Taxation of Our Company

We are currently taxed as a REIT under the federal income tax laws. We believe that we are organized and operate in such a manner as to qualify for taxation as a REIT under the Code, and we intend to continue to operate in such a manner, but no assurance can be given that we will operate in a manner so as to continue to qualify as a REIT. This section discusses the laws governing the federal income tax treatment of a REIT and its investors. These laws are highly technical and complex.

Andrews Kurth LLP has acted as our counsel in connection with the filing of the registration statement of which this prospectus is a part. In the opini