

PS BUSINESS PARKS INC/CA  
Form 10-K  
February 26, 2010

**UNITED STATES SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION**

**WASHINGTON, D.C. 20549  
FORM 10-K**

- o** **ANNUAL REPORT PURSUANT TO SECTION 13 OR 15(d) OF THE SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934**  
**For the fiscal year ended December 31, 2009**
- or**
- o** **TRANSITION REPORT PURSUANT TO SECTION 13 OR 15(d) OF THE SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934**  
**For the transition period from            to**

**Commission File Number 1-10709**

**PS BUSINESS PARKS, INC.**  
*(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)*

**California**  
*(State or other jurisdiction of  
incorporation or organization)*

**95-4300881**  
*(I.R.S. Employer Identification No.)*

**701 Western Avenue, Glendale, California 91201-2397**  
*(Address of principal executive offices) (Zip Code)*

**818-244-8080**

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

**Securities registered pursuant to Section 12(b) of the Act:**

<b>Title of Each Class</b>	<b>Name of Each Exchange on Which Registered</b>
Common Stock, \$0.01 par value per share	New York Stock Exchange
Depository Shares Each Representing 1/1,000 of a Share of 7.000% Cumulative Preferred Stock, Series H, \$0.01 par value per share	New York Stock Exchange
Depository Shares Each Representing 1/1,000 of a Share of 6.875% Cumulative Preferred Stock, Series I, \$0.01 par value per share	New York Stock Exchange New York Stock Exchange

Depository Shares Each Representing 1/1,000 of a Share of  
7.950% Cumulative Preferred Stock, Series K, \$0.01 par value  
per share

Depository Shares Each Representing 1/1,000 of a Share of  
7.600% Cumulative Preferred Stock, Series L, \$0.01 par value  
per share

New York Stock Exchange

Depository Shares Each Representing 1/1,000 of a Share of  
7.200% Cumulative Preferred Stock, Series M, \$0.01 par value  
per share

New York Stock Exchange

Depository Shares Each Representing 1/1,000 of a Share of  
7.375% Cumulative Preferred Stock, Series O, \$0.01 par value  
per share

New York Stock Exchange

Depository Shares Each Representing 1/1,000 of a Share of  
6.700% Cumulative Preferred Stock, Series P, \$0.01 par value  
per share

New York Stock Exchange

**Securities registered pursuant to Section 12(g) of the Act:**

**None**

*(Title of class)*

Indicate by check mark if the registrant is a well-known seasoned issuer, as defined in Rule 405 of the Securities Act. Yes  No

Indicate by check mark if the registrant is not required to file reports pursuant to Section 13 or Section 15(d) of the Exchange Act. Yes  No

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant (1) has filed all reports required to be filed by Section 13 or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 during the preceding 12 months (or for such shorter period that the registrant was required to file such reports) and (2) has been subject to such filing requirements for the past 90 days. Yes  No

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant has submitted electronically and posted on its corporate Web site, if any, every Interactive Data File required to be submitted and posted pursuant to Rule 405 of Regulation S-T (§ 232.405 of this chapter) during the preceding 12 months (or for such shorter period that the registrant was required to submit and post such files). Yes  No

Indicate by check mark if disclosure of delinquent filers pursuant to Item 405 of Regulation S-K is not contained herein, and will not be contained, to the best of the registrant's knowledge, in definitive proxy or information statements incorporated by reference in Part III of this Form 10-K or any amendment to this Form 10-K.

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant is a large accelerated filer, an accelerated filer, a non-accelerated filer, or a smaller reporting company. See definitions of large accelerated filer, accelerated filer, and smaller reporting company in Rule 12b-2 of the Exchange Act. (Check one):

Large accelerated filer

Accelerated filer

Non-accelerated filer

Smaller reporting company

(Do not check if a smaller reporting company)

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant is a shell company (as defined in Rule 12b-2 of the Exchange Act). Yes  No

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As of June 30, 2009, the aggregate market value of the registrant's common stock held by non-affiliates of the registrant was \$726,163,459 based on the closing price as reported on that date.

Number of shares of the registrant's common stock, par value \$0.01 per share, outstanding as of February 22, 2010 (the latest practicable date): 24,399,509.

**DOCUMENTS INCORPORATED BY REFERENCE**

Portions of the definitive proxy statement to be filed in connection with the Annual Meeting of Shareholders to be held in 2010 are incorporated by reference into Part III of this Annual Report on Form 10-K.

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## PART I.

### ITEM 1. BUSINESS

#### The Company

PS Business Parks, Inc. ( PSB ) is a fully-integrated, self-advised and self-managed real estate investment trust ( REIT ) that acquires, owns, operates and develops commercial properties, primarily multi-tenant flex, office and industrial space. As of December 31, 2009, PSB owned 77.0% of the common partnership units of PS Business Parks, L.P. (the Operating Partnership ). The remaining common partnership units were owned by Public Storage ( PS ). PSB, as the sole general partner of the Operating Partnership, has full, exclusive and complete responsibility and discretion in managing and controlling the Operating Partnership. Unless otherwise indicated or unless the context requires otherwise, all references to the Company, we, us, our, and similar references mean PS Business Parks, Inc. and its subsidiaries, including the Operating Partnership.

As of December 31, 2009, the Company owned and operated approximately 19.6 million rentable square feet of commercial space located in eight states: Arizona, California, Florida, Maryland, Oregon, Texas, Virginia and Washington. The Company also manages approximately 1.4 million rentable square feet on behalf of PS and its affiliated entities.

*History of the Company:* The Company was formed in 1990 as a California corporation under the name Public Storage Properties XI, Inc. In a March 17, 1998 merger with American Office Park Properties, Inc. ( AOPP ) (the Merger ), the Company acquired the commercial property business previously operated by AOPP and was renamed PS Business Parks, Inc. Prior to the Merger in January, 1997, AOPP was reorganized to succeed to the commercial property business of PS, becoming a fully integrated, self advised and self managed REIT.

From 1998 through 2001, the Company added 9.7 million square feet in Virginia, Maryland, Texas, Oregon, California and Arizona, acquiring 9.2 million square feet of commercial space and developing an additional 500,000 square feet.

In 2002, the economy and real estate fundamentals softened. This resulted in an environment in which the Company was unable to identify acquisitions at prices that met its investment criteria. In 2002, the Company disposed of four properties totaling 386,000 square feet that no longer met its investment criteria.

In 2003, the Company acquired 4.1 million square feet of commercial space, including a 3.4 million square foot property located in Miami, Florida, which represented a new market for the Company. The Miami property represented approximately 18% of the Company's aggregate rentable square footage at December 31, 2003. The cost of the 2003 acquisitions was \$282.4 million. The Company also disposed of four properties totaling 226,000 square feet as well as a one acre plot of land that no longer met its investment criteria.

In 2004, the Company made one acquisition, a 165,000 square foot asset in Fairfax, Virginia, for \$24.1 million. During 2004, the Company sold two significant assets, comprising 400,000 square feet in Maryland resulting in a gain of \$15.2 million. Additionally in 2004, the Company sold an aggregate of 91,000 square feet in Texas, Oregon and Miami.

In 2005, the Company acquired one asset, a 233,000 square foot multi-tenant flex space in San Diego, California. The asset, which was 94.6% leased at the time of acquisition, was purchased for \$35.1 million. In connection with the acquisition, the Company assumed a \$15.0 million mortgage which bears interest at a fixed rate of 5.73%. During

2005, the Company sold Woodside Corporate Park, a 574,000 square foot flex and office park in Beaverton, Oregon, for \$64.5 million resulting in a gain of \$12.5 million. The park was 76.8% leased at the time of the sale. Additionally in 2005, the Company sold 100,000 square feet and some parcels of land in Miami and Oregon.

In 2006, the Company acquired 1.2 million square feet for an aggregate cost of \$180.3 million. The Company acquired WesTech Business Park, a 366,000 square foot office and flex park in Silver Spring, Maryland, for \$69.3 million; 88,800 square feet multi-tenant flex buildings in Signal Hill, California, for \$10.7 million; a 107,300 square foot multi-tenant flex park in Chantilly, Virginia, for \$15.8 million; Meadows Corporate Park, a 165,000 square foot multi-tenant office park in Silver Spring, Maryland, for \$29.9 million; Rogers Avenue, a 66,500 square foot multi-tenant industrial and flex park in San Jose, California, for \$8.4 million; and Boca

Commerce Park and Wellington Commerce Park, two multi-tenant industrial, flex and storage parks, aggregating 398,000 square feet, located in Palm Beach County, Florida, for \$46.2 million. In connection with the Meadows Corporate Park purchase, the Company assumed a \$16.8 million mortgage with a fixed interest rate of 7.20% through November, 2011, at which time it can be prepaid without penalty. In addition, in connection with the Palm Beach County purchases, the Company assumed three mortgages with a combined total of \$23.8 million with a weighted average fixed interest rate of 5.84%. During 2006, the Company sold a 30,500 square foot building located in Beaverton, Oregon, for \$4.4 million resulting in a gain of \$1.5 million. Additionally in 2006, the Company sold 32,400 square feet in Miami for a combined total of \$3.7 million, resulting in a gain of \$865,000.

In 2007, the Company acquired 870,000 square feet for an aggregate cost of \$140.6 million. The Company acquired Overlake Business Center, a 493,000 square foot multi-tenant office and flex business park located in Redmond, Washington, for \$76.0 million; Commerce Campus, a 252,000 square foot multi-tenant office and flex business park located in Santa Clara, California, for \$39.2 million; and Fair Oaks Corporate Center, a 125,000 square foot multi-tenant office park located in Fairfax, Virginia, for \$25.4 million.

As of December 31, 2009, the Company had commenced development on a parcel within its Miami International Commerce Center ( MICC ) in Miami, Florida, which upon completion is expected to comprise 75,000 square feet of leasable small-bay industrial space. The construction is scheduled to be completed in the third quarter of 2010.

In 2009, the Company sold 3.4 acres of land held for development in Portland, Oregon, for a gross sales price of \$2.7 million, resulting in a net gain of \$1.5 million. The Company made no acquisitions during the years ended December 31, 2009 and 2008.

On January 14, 2010, the Company completed the sale of a 131,000 square foot office building located in Houston, Texas. The sales price was \$10.0 million, resulting in a net gain of \$5.2 million.

The Company has elected to be taxed as a REIT under the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended (the Code ), commencing with its taxable year ended December 31, 1990. To the extent that the Company continues to qualify as a REIT, it will not be taxed, with certain limited exceptions, on the net income that is currently distributed to its shareholders.

The Company's principal executive offices are located at 701 Western Avenue, Glendale, California 91201-2397. The Company's telephone number is (818) 244-8080. The Company maintains a website with the address [www.psbusinessparks.com](http://www.psbusinessparks.com). The information contained on the Company's website is not a part of, or incorporated by reference into, this Annual Report on Form 10-K. The Company makes available free of charge through its website its Annual Report on Form 10-K, Quarterly Reports on Form 10-Q and Current Reports on Form 8-K, and amendments to these reports, as soon as reasonably practicable after the Company electronically files such material with, or furnishes such material to, the Securities and Exchange Commission.

*Business of the Company:* The Company is in the commercial property business, with properties consisting of multi-tenant flex, industrial and office space. The Company owns approximately 12.2 million square feet of flex space. The Company defines flex space as buildings that are configured with a combination of warehouse and office space and can be designed to fit a wide variety of uses. The warehouse component of the flex space has a number of uses including light manufacturing and assembly, storage and warehousing, showroom, laboratory, distribution and research and development activities. The office component of flex space is complementary to the warehouse component by enabling businesses to accommodate management and production staff in the same facility. The Company owns approximately 3.9 million square feet of industrial space that has characteristics similar to the warehouse component of the flex space. In addition, the Company owns approximately 3.4 million square feet of low-rise office space, generally either in business parks that combine office and flex space or in submarkets where the

economics of the market demand an office build-out.

The Company's commercial properties typically consist of low-rise buildings, ranging from one to 46 buildings per property, located on parcels of various sizes and comprising from approximately 12,000 to 3.2 million aggregate square feet of rentable space. Facilities are managed through either on-site management or area offices central to the facilities. Parking is generally open but in some instances is covered. The ratio of parking spaces to rentable square feet ranges from two to six per thousand square feet depending upon the use of the property and its location. Office

space generally requires a greater parking ratio than most industrial uses. The Company may acquire properties that do not have these characteristics.

The tenant base for the Company's facilities is diverse. The portfolio can be bifurcated into those facilities that service small to medium-sized businesses and those that service larger businesses. Approximately 40.5% of in-place rents from the portfolio are derived from facilities that serve small to medium-sized businesses. A property in this facility type is typically divided into units ranging in size from 500 to 4,999 square feet and leases generally range from one to three years. The remaining 59.5% of in-place rents from the portfolio are derived from facilities that serve larger businesses, with units greater than or equal to 5,000 square feet. The Company also has several tenants that lease space in multiple buildings and locations. The U.S. Government is the largest tenant with multiple leases encompassing approximately 507,000 square feet or approximately 4.6% of the Company's annualized rental income.

The Company intends to continue acquiring commercial properties located in desired markets within the United States. The Company's policy of acquiring commercial properties may be changed by its Board of Directors without shareholder approval. However, the Board of Directors has no intention of changing this policy at this time. Although the Company currently owns properties in eight states, it may expand its operations to other states or reduce the number of states in which it operates. Properties are acquired for both income and potential capital appreciation; there is no limitation on the amount that can be invested in any specific property. Although there are no restrictions on our ability to expand our operations into foreign markets, we currently operate solely within the United States and have no foreign operations.

The Company owns land which may be used for the development of commercial properties. The Company owns approximately 6.4 acres of land in Northern Virginia, 11.5 acres in Portland, Oregon and 10.0 acres in Dallas, Texas as of December 31, 2009.

### **Operating Partnership**

The properties in which the Company has an equity interest will generally be owned by the Operating Partnership. The Company has the ability to acquire interests in additional properties in transactions that could defer the contributors' tax consequences by causing the Operating Partnership to issue equity interests in return for interests in properties.

As the general partner of the Operating Partnership, the Company has the exclusive responsibility under the Operating Partnership Agreement to manage and conduct the business of the Operating Partnership. The Board of Directors directs the affairs of the Operating Partnership by managing the Company's affairs. The Operating Partnership will be responsible for, and pay when due, its share of all administrative and operating expenses of the properties it owns.

The Company's interest in the Operating Partnership entitles it to share in cash distributions from, and the profits and losses of, the Operating Partnership in proportion to the Company's economic interest in the Operating Partnership (apart from tax allocations of profits and losses to take into account pre-contribution property appreciation or depreciation).

### **Summary of the Operating Partnership Agreement**

The following summary of the Operating Partnership Agreement is qualified in its entirety by reference to the Operating Partnership Agreement as amended, which is incorporated by reference as an exhibit to this report.

*Issuance of Additional Partnership Interests:* As the general partner of the Operating Partnership, the Company is authorized to cause the Operating Partnership from time to time to issue to partners of the Operating Partnership or to



other persons additional partnership units in one or more classes, and in one or more series of any of such classes, with such designations, preferences and relative, participating, optional, or other special rights, powers and duties (which may be senior to the existing partnership units), as will be determined by the Company, in its sole and absolute discretion, without the approval of any limited partners, except to the extent specifically provided in the agreement. No such additional partnership units, however, will be issued to the Company unless (i) the agreement to issue the additional partnership interests arises in connection with the issuance of shares of the Company, which

shares have designations, preferences and other rights, such that the economic interests are substantially similar to the designations, preferences and other rights of the additional partnership units that would be issued to the Company and (ii) the Company agrees to make a capital contribution to the Operating Partnership in an amount equal to the proceeds raised in connection with the issuance of such shares of the Company.

*Capital Contributions:* No partner is required to make additional capital contributions to the Operating Partnership, except that the Company as the general partner is required to contribute the proceeds of the sale of equity interests in the Company to the Operating Partnership in return for additional partnership units. A limited partner may be required to pay to the Operating Partnership any taxes paid by the Operating Partnership on behalf of that limited partner. No partner is required to pay to the Operating Partnership any deficit or negative balance which may exist in its capital account.

*Distributions:* The Company, as general partner, is required to make quarterly distributions in compliance with the Operating Partnership Agreement. Distributions are to be made (i) first, with respect to any class of partnership interests having a preference over other classes of partnership interests; and (ii) second, in accordance with the partners' respective percentage interests on the partnership record date (as defined in the Operating Partnership Agreement). Commencing in 1998, the Operating Partnership's policy has been to make distributions per unit (other than preferred units) that are equal to the per share distributions made by the Company with respect to its common stock.

*Preferred Units:* As of December 31, 2009, the Operating Partnership had an aggregate of 2.9 million preferred units owned by third parties with distribution rates ranging from 6.550% to 7.950% (per annum) with an aggregate redemption value of \$73.4 million. The Operating Partnership has the right to redeem each series of preferred units on or after the fifth anniversary of the issuance date of the series at the original capital contribution plus the cumulative priority return, as defined, to the redemption date to the extent not previously distributed. Each series of preferred units is exchangeable for Cumulative Redeemable Preferred Stock of the respective series of PS Business Parks, Inc. on or after the tenth anniversary of the date of issuance at the option of the Operating Partnership or a majority of the holders of the applicable series of preferred units.

As of December 31, 2009, in connection with the Company's issuance of publicly traded Cumulative Preferred Stock, the Company owned 25.0 million preferred units of various series with an aggregate redemption value of \$626.0 million with terms substantially identical to the terms of the publicly traded depository shares each representing 1/1,000 of a share of 6.700% to 7.950% Cumulative Preferred Stock of the Company. The holders of all series of Preferred Stock may combine to elect two additional directors if the Company fails to make dividend payments for six quarterly dividend payment periods, whether or not consecutive.

*Redemption of Partnership Interests:* Subject to certain limitations described below, each limited partner (other than the Company and holders of preferred units) has the right to require the redemption of such limited partner's units. This right may be exercised on at least 10 days notice at any time or from time to time, beginning on the date that is one year after the date on which such limited partner is admitted to the Operating Partnership (unless otherwise contractually agreed by the general partner).

Unless the Company, as general partner, elects to assume and perform the Operating Partnership's obligation with respect to a redemption right, as described below, a limited partner that exercises its redemption right will receive cash from the Operating Partnership in an amount equal to the redemption amount (as defined in the Operating Partnership Agreement generally to reflect the average trading price of the common stock of the Company over a specified 10 day trading period) for the units redeemed. In lieu of the Operating Partnership redeeming the units for cash, the Company, as the general partner, has the right to elect to acquire the units directly from a limited partner exercising its redemption right, in exchange for cash in the amount specified above as the redemption amount or by issuance of the

shares amount (as defined in the Operating Partnership Agreement, generally to mean the issuance of one share of the Company's common stock for each unit of limited partnership interest redeemed).

A limited partner cannot exercise its redemption right if delivery of shares of common stock would be prohibited under the articles of incorporation of the Company or if in the opinion of counsel to the general partner there is a significant risk that delivery of shares of common stock would cause the general partner to no longer qualify as a

REIT, would cause a violation of the applicable securities or certain antitrust laws, or would result in the Operating Partnership no longer being treated as a partnership for federal income tax purposes.

*Limited Partner Transfer Restrictions:* Limited partners generally may not transfer partnership interests (other than to their estates, immediate family or certain affiliates) without the prior written consent of the Company as general partner, which consent may be given or withheld in its sole and absolute discretion. The Company, as general partner, has a right of first refusal to purchase partnership interests proposed to be sold by the limited partners. Transfers must comply with applicable securities laws and regulations. Transfers of partnership interests generally are not permitted if the transfer would be made through certain trading markets or adversely affect the Company's ability to qualify as a REIT or could subject the Company to any additional taxes under Section 857 or Section 4981 of the Code.

*Management:* The Operating Partnership is organized as a California limited partnership. The Company, as the sole general partner of the Operating Partnership, has full, exclusive and complete responsibility and discretion in managing and controlling the Operating Partnership, except as provided in the Operating Partnership Agreement and by applicable law. The limited partners of the Operating Partnership have no authority to transact business for, or participate in the management activities or decisions of, the Operating Partnership except as provided in the Operating Partnership Agreement and as permitted by applicable law. The Operating Partnership Agreement provides that the general partner may not be removed by the limited partners. In exercising its authority under the agreement, the general partner may take into account (but is not required to do so) the tax consequences to any partner of actions or inaction and is under no obligation to consider the separate interests of the limited partners.

However, the consent of the limited partners holding a majority of the interests of the limited partners (including limited partnership interests held by the Company) generally will be required to amend the Operating Partnership Agreement. Further, the Operating Partnership Agreement cannot be amended without the consent of each partner adversely affected if, among other things, the amendment would alter the partner's rights to distributions from the Operating Partnership (except as specifically permitted in the Operating Partnership Agreement), alter the redemption right, or impose on the limited partners an obligation to make additional capital contributions.

The consent of all limited partners will be required to (i) take any action that would make it impossible to carry on the ordinary business of the Operating Partnership, except as otherwise provided in the Operating Partnership Agreement; or (ii) possess Operating Partnership property, or assign any rights in specific Operating Partnership property, for other than an Operating Partnership purpose, except as otherwise provided in the Operating Partnership Agreement. In addition, without the consent of any adversely affected limited partner, the general partner may not perform any act that would subject a limited partner to liability as a general partner in any jurisdiction or any other liability except as provided in the Operating Partnership Agreement or under California law.

*Extraordinary Transactions:* The Operating Partnership Agreement provides that the Company may not engage in any business combination, defined to mean any merger, consolidation or other combination with or into another person or sale of all or substantially all of its assets, any reclassification, any recapitalization (other than certain stock splits or stock dividends) or change of outstanding shares of common stock, unless (i) the limited partners of the Operating Partnership will receive, or have the opportunity to receive, the same proportionate consideration per unit in the transaction as shareholders of the Company (without regard to tax considerations); or (ii) limited partners of the Operating Partnership (other than the general partner) holding at least 60% of the interests in the Operating Partnership held by limited partners (other than the general partner) vote to approve the business combination. In addition, the Company, as general partner of the Operating Partnership, has agreed in the Operating Partnership Agreement with the limited partners of the Operating Partnership that it will not consummate a business combination in which the Company conducted a vote of shareholders unless the matter is also submitted to a vote of the partners.

The foregoing provision of the Operating Partnership Agreement would under no circumstances enable or require the Company to engage in a business combination which required the approval of shareholders if the shareholders of the Company did not in fact give the requisite approval. Rather, if the shareholders did approve a business combination, the Company would not consummate the transaction unless the Company as general partner first conducts a vote of partners of the Operating Partnership on the matter. For purposes of the Operating Partnership vote, the Company shall be deemed to vote its partnership interest in the same proportion as the

shareholders of the Company voted on the matter (disregarding shareholders who do not vote). The Operating Partnership vote will be deemed approved if the votes recorded are such that if the Operating Partnership vote had been a vote of shareholders, the business combination would have been approved by the shareholders. As a result of these provisions of the Operating Partnership, a third party may be inhibited from making an acquisition proposal for the Company that it would otherwise make, or the Company, despite having the requisite authority under its articles of incorporation, may not be authorized to engage in a proposed business combination.

*Indemnification:* The Operating Partnership Agreement generally provides that the Company and its officers and directors and the limited partners of the Operating Partnership will be indemnified and held harmless by the Operating Partnership for matters that relate to the operations of the Operating Partnership unless it is established that (i) the act or omission of the indemnified person was material to the matter giving rise to the proceeding and either was committed in bad faith or was the result of active and deliberate dishonesty; (ii) the indemnified person actually received an improper personal benefit in money, property or services; or (iii) in the case of any criminal proceeding, the indemnified person had reasonable cause to believe that the act or omission was unlawful. The termination of any proceeding by judgment, order or settlement does not create a presumption that the indemnified person did not meet the requisite standards of conduct set forth above. The termination of any proceeding by conviction or upon a plea of nolo contendere or its equivalent, or an entry of an order of probation prior to judgment, creates a rebuttable presumption that the indemnified person did not meet the requisite standard of conduct set forth above. Any indemnification so made shall be made only out of the assets of the Operating Partnership or through insurance obtained by the Operating Partnership. The general partner shall not be liable for monetary damages to the partnership, any partners or any assignees for losses sustained, liabilities incurred or benefits not derived as a result of errors in judgment or of any act or omissions if the general partner acted in good faith.

*Duties and Conflicts:* The Operating Agreement allows the Company to operate the Operating Partnership in a manner that will enable the Company to satisfy the requirements for being classified as a REIT. The Company intends to conduct all of its business activities, including all activities pertaining to the acquisition, management and operation of properties, through the Operating Partnership. However, the Company may own, directly or through subsidiaries, interests in Operating Partnership properties that do not exceed 1% of the economic interest of any property, and if appropriate for regulatory, tax or other purposes, the Company also may own, directly or through subsidiaries, interests in assets that the Operating Partnership otherwise could acquire, if the Company grants to the Operating Partnership the option to acquire the assets within a period not to exceed three years in exchange for the number of partnership units that would be issued if the Operating Partnership had acquired the assets at the time of acquisition by the Company.

*Term:* The Operating Partnership will continue in full force and effect until December 31, 2096 or until sooner dissolved upon the withdrawal of the general partner (unless the limited partners elect to continue the Operating Partnership), or by the election of the general partner (with the consent of the holders of a majority of the partnerships interests if such vote is held before January 1, 2056), in connection with a merger or the sale or other disposition of all or substantially all of the assets of the Operating Partnership, or by judicial decree.

*Other Provisions:* The Operating Partnership Agreement contains other provisions affecting its operations and management, limited partner access to certain business records, responsibility for expenses and reimbursements, tax allocations, distribution of certain reports, winding-up and liquidation, the granting by the limited partners of powers of attorney to the general partner, the rights of holders of particular series of preferred units, and other matters.

#### **Cost Allocation and Administrative Services**

Pursuant to a cost sharing and administrative services agreement, the Company shares costs with PS and affiliated entities for certain administrative services. These services include investor relations, legal, corporate tax, information

systems and office services. Under this agreement, costs are allocated to the Company in accordance with its proportionate share of these costs. These allocated costs totaled \$372,000, \$390,000 and \$303,000 for the years ended December 31, 2009, 2008 and 2007, respectively.

## **Common Officers and Directors with PS**

Ronald L. Havner, Jr., Chairman of the Company, is the Chief Executive Officer and President of PS. Harvey Lenkin, retired president of PS, is a Director of both the Company and PS. The Company engages additional executive personnel who render services exclusively for the Company. However, it is expected that certain officers of PS will continue to render services for the Company as requested pursuant to the cost sharing and administrative services agreement.

## **Property Management**

The Company continues to manage commercial properties owned by PS and its affiliates, which are generally adjacent to mini-warehouses, for a fee of 5% of the gross revenues of such properties in addition to reimbursement of direct costs. The property management contract with PS is for a seven-year term with the agreement automatically extending for an additional one-year period upon each one-year anniversary of its commencement (unless cancelled by either party). Either party can give notice of its intent to cancel the agreement upon expiration of its current term. Management fee revenue derived from these management contracts with PS and its affiliates totaled \$698,000, \$728,000 and \$724,000 for the years ended December 31, 2009, 2008 and 2007, respectively.

In December, 2006, PS began providing property management services for the mini storage component of two assets owned by the Company. These mini storage facilities, located in Palm Beach County, Florida, operate under the Public Storage name. Either the Company or PS can cancel the property management contract upon 60 days notice. Management fee expenses under the contract were \$50,000, \$45,000 and \$47,000 for the years ended December 31, 2009, 2008 and 2007, respectively.

## **Management**

Joseph D. Russell, Jr. leads the Company's senior management team. Mr. Russell is President and Chief Executive Officer of the Company. The Company's executive management includes: John W. Petersen, Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer; Edward A. Stokx, Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer; Maria R. Hawthorne, Senior Vice President (East Coast); Trenton A. Groves, Vice President and Corporate Controller; Coby A. Holley, Vice President (Pacific Northwest Division); Robin E. Mather, Vice President (Southern California Division); William A. McFaul, Vice President (Washington Metro Division); Eddie F. Ruiz, Vice President and Director of Facilities; Viola I. Sanchez, Vice President (Southeast Division); and David A. Vicars, Vice President (Midwest Division).

## **REIT Structure**

If certain detailed conditions imposed by the Code and the related Treasury Regulations are met, an entity, such as the Company, that invests principally in real estate and that otherwise would be taxed as a corporation may elect to be treated as a REIT. The most important consequence to the Company of being treated as a REIT for federal income tax purposes is that the Company can deduct dividend distributions (including distributions on preferred stock) to its shareholders, thus effectively eliminating the double taxation (at the corporate and shareholder levels) that typically results when a corporation earns income and distributes that income to shareholders in the form of dividends.

The Company believes that it has operated, and intends to continue to operate, in such a manner as to qualify as a REIT under the Code, but no assurance can be given that it will at all times so qualify. To the extent that the Company continues to qualify as a REIT, it will not be taxed, with certain limited exceptions, on the taxable income that is distributed to its shareholders.



## **Operating Strategy**

The Company believes its operating, acquisition and finance strategies combined with its diversified portfolio produces a low risk, high growth business model. The Company's primary objective is to grow shareholder value. Key elements of the Company's growth strategy include:

*Maximize Net Cash Flow of Existing Properties:* The Company seeks to maximize the net cash flow generated by its properties by (i) maximizing average occupancy rates, (ii) achieving the highest possible

levels of realized monthly rents per occupied square foot and (iii) controlling its operating cost structure by improving operating efficiencies and economies of scale. The Company believes that its experienced property management personnel and comprehensive systems combined with increasing economies of scale will enhance the Company's ability to meet these goals. The Company seeks to increase occupancy rates and realized monthly rents per square foot by providing its field personnel with incentives to lease space to higher credit tenants and to maximize the return on investment in each lease transaction. The Company seeks to maximize its cash flow by controlling capital expenditures associated with re-leasing space by acquiring and owning properties with easily reconfigured space that appeal to a wide range of tenants.

*Focus on Targeted Markets:* The Company intends to continue investing in markets that have characteristics which enable them to be competitive economically. The Company believes that markets with some combination of above average population growth, education levels and personal income will produce better overall economic returns. As of December 31, 2009, substantially all of the Company's square footage was located in these targeted core markets. The Company targets individual properties in those markets that are close to critical infrastructure, middle to high income housing, universities and have easy access to major transportation arteries.

*Reduce Capital Expenditures and Increase Occupancy Rates by Providing Flexible Properties and Attracting a Diversified Tenant Base:* By focusing on properties with easily reconfigurable space, the Company believes it can offer facilities that appeal to a wide range of potential tenants, which aids in reducing the capital expenditures associated with re-leasing space. The Company believes this property flexibility also allows it to better serve existing tenants by accommodating their inevitable expansion and contraction needs. In addition, the Company believes that a diversified tenant base and property flexibility helps it maintain high occupancy rates during periods when market demand is weak, by enabling it to attract a greater number of potential users to its space.

*Provide Superior Property Management:* The Company seeks to provide a superior level of service to its tenants in order to achieve high occupancy and rental rates, as well as minimal customer turnover. The Company's property management offices are primarily located on-site or regionally located, providing tenants with convenient access to management and helping the Company maintain its properties and convey a sense of quality, order and security. The Company has significant experience in acquiring properties managed by others and thereafter improving tenant satisfaction, occupancy levels, renewal rates and rental income by implementing established tenant service programs.

## **Financing Strategy**

The Company's primary objective in its financing strategy is to maintain financial flexibility and a low risk capital structure using permanent capital to finance its growth. Key elements of this strategy are:

*Retain Operating Cash Flow:* The Company seeks to retain significant funds (after funding its distributions and capital improvements) for additional investments. During the year ended December 31, 2009, the Company distributed 32.2% of its funds from operations ( FFO ) to common shareholders/unit holders. During the year ended December 31, 2008, the Company distributed 37.3% of its FFO to common shareholders/unit holders. FFO is computed in accordance with the White Paper on FFO approved by the Board of Governors of the National Association of Real Estate Investment Trusts ( NAREIT ). The White Paper defines FFO as net income, computed in accordance with U.S. generally accepted accounting principles ( GAAP ), before depreciation, amortization, gains or losses on asset dispositions, net income allocable to noncontrolling interests common units, net income allocable to restricted stock unit holders and nonrecurring items. FFO is a non-GAAP financial measure and should be analyzed in conjunction with net income. However, FFO should not be viewed as a substitute for net income as a measure of operating performance as it does not reflect depreciation and amortization costs or the level of capital expenditure and leasing costs necessary to maintain the operating performance of the Company's properties, which are significant economic costs and could materially impact the Company's results of operations. Other REITs may use different

methods for calculating FFO and, accordingly, the Company's FFO may not be comparable to other real estate companies' funds from operations. See Item 7, Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial

Condition and Results of Operations    Liquidity and Capital Resources    Non-GAAP Supplemental Disclosure  
Measure: Funds from Operations,    for a reconciliation of FFO and net income allocable to common shareholders and  
for information on why the Company presents FFO.

*Perpetual Preferred Stock/Units:* The primary source of leverage in the Company's capital structure is perpetual preferred stock or equivalent preferred units in the Operating Partnership. This method of financing eliminates interest rate and refinancing risks because the dividend rate is fixed and the stated value or capital contribution is not required to be repaid. In addition, the consequences of defaulting on required preferred distributions is less severe than with debt. The preferred shareholders may elect two additional directors if six quarterly distributions go unpaid, whether or not consecutive.

*Debt Financing:* The Company has used debt financing to a limited degree. The primary source of debt that the Company relies upon to provide short term capital is its \$100.0 million unsecured line of credit with Wells Fargo. The Company had no balance outstanding on its Credit Facility at December 31, 2009 and 2008.

*Access to Capital:* The Company seeks to maintain a minimum ratio of FFO to combined fixed charges and preferred distributions paid of 2.6 to 1.0. Fixed charges include interest expense and capitalized interest. Preferred distributions include amounts paid to preferred shareholders and preferred Operating Partnership unit holders. For the year ended December 31, 2009, the FFO to combined fixed charges and preferred distributions paid ratio was 3.4 to 1.0, excluding the \$35.6 million net gain on the repurchase of preferred equity. The Company believes that its financial position will enable it to access capital to finance its future growth. Subject to market conditions, the Company may add leverage to its capital structure. Throughout this Form 10-K, we use the term "preferred equity" to mean both the preferred stock issued by the Company and the preferred partnership units issued by the Operating Partnership and the term "preferred distributions" to mean dividends and distributions on the preferred stock and preferred partnership units.

## **Competition**

Competition in the market areas in which many of the Company's properties are located is significant and has from time to time reduced the occupancy levels and rental rates of, and increased the operating expenses of, certain of these properties. Competition may be accelerated by any increase in availability of funds for investment in real estate. Barriers to entry are relatively low for those with the necessary capital and the Company competes for property acquisitions and tenants with entities that have greater financial resources than the Company. Recent increases in sublease space and unleased developments are expected to further intensify competition among operators in certain market areas in which the Company operates.

The Company's properties compete for tenants with similar properties located in its markets primarily on the basis of location, rent charged, services provided and the design and condition of improvements. The Company believes it possesses several distinguishing characteristics that enable it to compete effectively in the flex, office and industrial space markets. The Company believes its personnel are among the most experienced in these real estate markets. The Company's facilities are part of a comprehensive system encompassing standardized procedures and integrated reporting and information networks. The Company believes that the significant operating and financial experience of its executive officers and directors combined with the Company's capital structure, national investment scope, geographic diversity and economies of scale should enable the Company to compete effectively.

## **Investments in Real Estate Facilities**

As of December 31, 2009 and 2008, the Company owned and operated approximately 19.6 million rentable square feet.

**Summary of Business Model**

The Company has a diversified portfolio. It is diversified geographically in eight states and has a diversified customer mix by size and industry concentration. The Company believes that this diversification combined with a conservative financing strategy, focus on markets with strong demographics for growth and our operating strategy gives the Company a business model that mitigates risk and provides strong long-term growth opportunities.

### **Restrictions on Transactions with Affiliates**

The Company's Bylaws provide that the Company may engage in transactions with affiliates provided that a purchase or sale transaction with an affiliate is (i) approved by a majority of the Company's independent directors and (ii) fair to the Company based on an independent appraisal or fairness opinion.

### **Borrowings**

As of December 31, 2009, the Company had outstanding mortgage notes payable of \$52.9 million. See Notes 5 and 6 to the consolidated financial statements for a summary of the Company's outstanding borrowings as of December 31, 2009.

The Company has a line of credit (the Credit Facility) with Wells Fargo Bank which expires on August 1, 2010. The Credit Facility has a borrowing limit of \$100.0 million. Interest on outstanding borrowings is payable monthly. At the option of the Company, the rate of interest charged is equal to (i) the prime rate or (ii) a rate ranging from the London Interbank Offered Rate (LIBOR) plus 0.70% to LIBOR plus 1.50% depending on the Company's credit ratings and coverage ratios, as defined (currently LIBOR plus 0.85%). In addition, the Company is required to pay an annual commitment fee ranging from 0.15% to 0.30% of the borrowing limit (currently 0.20%). In connection with the modification of the Credit Facility, the Company paid a fee of \$300,000, which is being amortized over the life of the Credit Facility. The Company had no balance outstanding on its Credit Facility at December 31, 2009 and 2008.

The Credit Facility requires the Company to meet certain covenants including (i) maintain a balance sheet leverage ratio (as defined therein) of less than 0.45 to 1.00, (ii) maintain a fixed charge coverage ratio (as defined therein) of not less than 1.75 to 1.00, (iii) maintain a minimum tangible net worth (as defined) and (iv) limit distributions to 95% of funds from operations (as defined therein) for any four consecutive quarters. In addition, the Company is limited in its ability to incur additional borrowings (the Company is required to maintain unencumbered assets with an aggregate book value equal to or greater than two times the Company's unsecured recourse debt; the Company did not have any unsecured recourse debt at December 31, 2009) or sell assets. The Company was in compliance with the covenants of the Credit Facility at December 31, 2009.

The Company has broad powers to borrow in furtherance of the Company's objectives. The Company has incurred in the past, and may incur in the future, both short-term and long-term indebtedness to increase its funds available for investment in real estate, capital expenditures and distributions.

### **Employees**

As of December 31, 2009, the Company employed 138 individuals, primarily personnel engaged in property operations. The Company believes that its relationship with its employees is good, and none of its employees are represented by a labor union.

### **Insurance**

The Company believes that its properties are adequately insured. Facilities operated by the Company have historically been covered by comprehensive insurance, including fire, earthquake, liability and extended coverage from nationally recognized carriers.

### **Environmental Matters**

Compliance with laws and regulations relating to the protection of the environment, including those regarding the discharge of material into the environment, has not had any material effect upon the capital expenditures, earnings or competitive position of the Company.

Substantially all of the Company's properties have been subjected to Phase I environmental reviews. Such reviews have not revealed, nor is management aware of, any probable or reasonably possible environmental costs that management believes would have a material adverse effect on the Company's business, assets or results of operations, nor is the Company aware of any potentially material environmental liability.

## **ITEM 1A. RISK FACTORS**

In addition to the other information in this Form 10-K, the following factors should be considered in evaluating our company and our business.

### **PS has significant influence over us.**

At December 31, 2009, PS and its affiliates owned 23.8% of the outstanding shares of the Company's common stock and 23.0% of the outstanding common units of the Operating Partnership (100% of the common units not owned by the Company). Assuming issuance of the Company's common stock upon redemption of its partnership units, PS would own 41.3% of the outstanding shares of the Company's common stock. Ronald L. Havner, Jr., the Company's chairman, is also the Chief Executive Officer, President and a Director of PS. Harvey Lenkin is a Director of both the Company and PS. Consequently, PS has the ability to significantly influence all matters submitted to a vote of our shareholders, including electing directors, changing our articles of incorporation, dissolving and approving other extraordinary transactions such as mergers, and all matters requiring the consent of the limited partners of the Operating Partnership. PS's interest in such matters may differ from other shareholders. In addition, PS's ownership may make it more difficult for another party to take over our company without PS's approval.

### **Provisions in our organizational documents may prevent changes in control.**

*Our articles generally prohibit any person from owning more than 7% of our shares:* Our articles of incorporation restrict the number of shares that may be owned by any other person, and the partnership agreement of our Operating Partnership contains an anti-takeover provision. No shareholder (other than PS and certain other specified shareholders) may own more than 7% of the outstanding shares of our common stock, unless our board of directors waives this limitation. We imposed this limitation to avoid, to the extent possible, a concentration of ownership that might jeopardize our ability to qualify as a REIT. This limitation, however, also makes a change of control much more difficult (if not impossible) even if it may be favorable to our public shareholders. These provisions will prevent future takeover attempts not approved by PS even if a majority of our public shareholders consider it to be in their best interests because they would receive a premium for their shares over market value or for other reasons.

*Our board can set the terms of certain securities without shareholder approval:* Our board of directors is authorized, without shareholder approval, to issue up to 50.0 million shares of preferred stock and up to 100.0 million shares of Equity Stock, in each case in one or more series. Our board has the right to set the terms of each of these series of stock. Consequently, the board could set the terms of a series of stock that could make it difficult (if not impossible) for another party to take over our company even if it might be favorable to our public shareholders. Our articles of incorporation also contain other provisions that could have the same effect. We can also cause our Operating Partnership to issue additional interests for cash or in exchange for property.

*The partnership agreement of our Operating Partnership restricts mergers:* The partnership agreement of our Operating Partnership generally provides that we may not merge or engage in a similar transaction unless the limited partners of our Operating Partnership are entitled to receive the same proportionate payments as our shareholders. In addition, we have agreed not to merge unless the merger would have been approved had the limited partners been able to vote together with our shareholders, which has the effect of increasing PS's influence over us due to PS's ownership of operating partnership units. These provisions may make it more difficult for us to merge with another entity.

### **Our Operating Partnership poses additional risks to us.**

Limited partners of our Operating Partnership, including PS, have the right to vote on certain changes to the partnership agreement. They may vote in a way that is against the interests of our shareholders. Also, as general



partner of our Operating Partnership, we are required to protect the interests of the limited partners of the Operating Partnership. The interests of the limited partners and of our shareholders may differ.

**We would incur adverse tax consequences if we fail to qualify as a REIT.**

*Our cash flow would be reduced if we fail to qualify as a REIT:* While we believe that we have qualified since 1990 to be taxed as a REIT, and will continue to be so qualified, we cannot be certain. To continue to qualify as a REIT, we need to satisfy certain requirements under the federal income tax laws relating to our income, assets, distributions to shareholders and shareholder base. In this regard, the share ownership limits in our articles of incorporation do not necessarily ensure that our shareholder base is sufficiently diverse for us to qualify as a REIT. For any year we fail to qualify as a REIT, we would be taxed at regular corporate tax rates on our taxable income unless certain relief provisions apply. Taxes would reduce our cash available for distributions to shareholders or for reinvestment, which could adversely affect us and our shareholders. Also we would not be allowed to elect REIT status for five years after we fail to qualify unless certain relief provisions apply.

*We may need to borrow funds to meet our REIT distribution requirements:* To qualify as a REIT, we must generally distribute to our shareholders 90% of our taxable income. Our income consists primarily of our share of our Operating Partnership's income. We intend to make sufficient distributions to qualify as a REIT and otherwise avoid corporate tax. However, differences in timing between income and expenses and the need to make nondeductible expenditures such as capital improvements and principal payments on debt could force us to borrow funds to make necessary shareholder distributions.

**The recent market disruptions may adversely affect our operating results and financial condition.**

The United States economy is currently undergoing pervasive and fundamental disruptions. The continuation or intensification of any such volatility may have an adverse impact on the availability of credit to businesses generally and could lead to a further weakening of the U.S. and global economies. To the extent that turmoil in the financial markets continues or intensifies, it has the potential to materially affect the value of our properties, the availability or the terms of financing and may impact the ability of our customers to enter into new leasing transactions or satisfy rental payments under existing leases. The current market disruption could also affect our operating results and financial condition as follows:

*Debt and Equity Markets:* Our results of operations and share price are sensitive to the volatility of the credit markets. The commercial real estate debt markets are currently experiencing volatility as a result of various factors, including the tightening of underwriting standards by lenders and credit rating agencies and the continued erosion of operating fundamentals of assets pledged as collateral. Credit spreads for major sources of capital have widened significantly as investors have demanded a higher risk premium. This is resulting in lenders increasing the cost for debt financing. Should the overall cost of borrowings increase, either by increases in the index rates or by increases in lender spreads, we will need to factor such increases into the economics of our acquisitions. In addition, the state of the debt markets could have an effect on the overall amount of capital being invested in real estate, which may result in price or value decreases of real estate assets and affect our ability to raise capital.

*Valuations:* The recent market volatility will likely make the valuation of our properties more difficult. There may be significant uncertainty in the valuation, or in the stability of the value, of our properties, which could result in a substantial decrease in the value of our properties. As a result, we may not be able to recover the carrying amount of our properties, which may require us to recognize an impairment charge in earnings.

*Government Intervention:* The pervasive and fundamental disruptions that the United States economy is currently undergoing have led to extensive and unprecedented governmental intervention. Such intervention has in certain cases been implemented on an emergency basis, suddenly and substantially eliminating market participants' ability to continue to implement certain strategies or manage the risk of their outstanding positions. In addition, these interventions have typically been unclear in scope and application, resulting in confusion and uncertainty which in

itself has been materially detrimental to the efficient functioning of the markets as well as previously successful investment strategies. It is impossible to predict what, if any, additional interim or permanent governmental restrictions may be imposed on the markets or the effect of such restrictions on us and our results of operations. There is a high likelihood of significantly increased regulation of the financial markets that could have a material effect on our operating results and financial condition.

**Since we buy and operate real estate, we are subject to general real estate investment and operating risks.**

*Summary of real estate risks:* We own and operate commercial properties and are subject to the risks of owning real estate generally and commercial properties in particular. These risks include:

the national, state and local economic climate and real estate conditions, such as oversupply of or reduced demand for space and changes in market rental rates;

how prospective tenants perceive the attractiveness, convenience and safety of our properties;

difficulties in consummating and financing acquisitions and developments on advantageous terms and the failure of acquisitions and developments to perform as expected;

our ability to provide adequate management, maintenance and insurance;

our ability to collect rent from tenants on a timely basis;

the expense of periodically renovating, repairing and reletting spaces;

environmental issues;

compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act and other federal, state, and local laws and regulations;

increasing operating costs, including real estate taxes, insurance and utilities, if these increased costs cannot be passed through to tenants;

changes in tax, real estate and zoning laws;

increase in new commercial properties in our market;

tenant defaults and bankruptcies;

tenants' right to sublease space; and

concentration of properties leased to non-rated private companies.

Certain significant costs, such as mortgage payments, real estate taxes, insurance and maintenance, generally are not reduced even when a property's rental income is reduced. In addition, environmental and tax laws, interest rate levels, the availability of financing and other factors may affect real estate values and property income. Furthermore, the supply of commercial space fluctuates with market conditions.

If our properties do not generate sufficient income to meet operating expenses, including any debt service, tenant improvements, lease commissions and other capital expenditures, we may have to borrow additional amounts to cover fixed costs, and we may have to reduce our distributions to shareholders.

*We may be unable to consummate acquisitions and developments on advantageous terms or new acquisitions and developments may fail to perform as expected:* While we have not acquired a property since August, 2007, we continue to seek to acquire and develop flex, industrial and office properties where they meet our criteria and we believe that they will enhance our future financial performance and the value of our portfolio. Our belief, however, is

subject to risks, uncertainties and other factors, many of which are forward-looking and are uncertain in nature or are beyond our control, including the risks that our acquisitions and developments may not perform as expected, that we may be unable to quickly integrate new acquisitions and developments into our existing operations, and that any costs to develop projects or redevelop acquired properties may exceed estimates. Further, we face significant competition for suitable acquisition properties from other real estate investors, including other publicly traded real estate investment trusts and private institutional investors. As a result, we may be unable to acquire additional properties we desire or the purchase price for desirable properties may be significantly increased. In addition, some of these properties may have unknown characteristics or deficiencies or may not complement our portfolio of existing properties. In addition, we may finance future acquisitions and developments through a combination of borrowings, proceeds from equity or debt offerings by us or the Operating Partnership, and proceeds from property divestitures. These financing options may not be available when desired or required or may be more costly than anticipated, which could adversely affect our cash flow. Real property development is subject to a number of risks,

including construction delays, complications in obtaining necessary zoning, occupancy and other governmental permits, cost overruns, financing risks, and the possible inability to meet expected occupancy and rent levels. If any of these problems occur, development costs for a project may increase, and there may be costs incurred for projects that are not completed. As a result of the foregoing, some properties may be worth less or may generate less revenue than, or simply not perform as well as, we believed at the time of acquisition or development, negatively affecting our operating results. Any of the foregoing risks could adversely affect our financial condition, operating results and cash flow, and our ability to pay dividends on, and the market price of, our stock. In addition, we may be unable to successfully integrate and effectively manage the properties we do acquire and develop, which could adversely affect our results of operations.

*We may encounter significant delays and expense in reletting vacant space, or we may not be able to relet space at existing rates, in each case resulting in losses of income:* When leases expire, we will incur expenses in retrofitting space and we may not be able to re-lease the space on the same terms. Certain leases provide tenants with the right to terminate early if they pay a fee. As of December 31, 2009, our properties generally had lower vacancy rates than the average for the markets in which they are located, and leases accounting for 21.8% of our annualized rental income expire in 2010. While we have estimated our cost of renewing leases that expire in 2010, our estimates could be wrong. If we are unable to re-lease space promptly, if the terms are significantly less favorable than anticipated or if the costs are higher, we may have to reduce our distributions to shareholders.

*Tenant defaults and bankruptcies may reduce our cash flow and distributions:* We may have difficulty collecting from tenants in default, particularly if they declare bankruptcy. This could affect our cash flow and our ability to fund distributions to shareholders. Since many of our tenants are non-rated private companies, this risk may be enhanced. There is inherent uncertainty in a tenant's ability to continue paying rent if they are in bankruptcy. As of February 26, 2010, the Company had approximately 17,000 square feet of leased space that is occupied by tenants that are protected by Chapter 11 of the U.S. Bankruptcy Code. In addition, we had tenants occupying approximately 818,000 square feet who vacated their space during the year ended December 31, 2009 prior to their scheduled lease expiration as a result of business failures. As of December 31, 2009, 466,000 square feet has been re-leased. During the years ended December 31, 2009 and 2008, write-offs of unpaid rents were \$988,000 and \$602,000, respectively. A number of other tenants have contacted us requesting early termination of their lease, reduction in space under lease, or rent deferment or abatement. At this time, the Company cannot anticipate what effect, if any, the ultimate outcome of these discussions will have on our future operating results.

*We may be adversely affected by significant competition among commercial properties:* Many other commercial properties compete with our properties for tenants. Some of the competing properties may be newer and better located than our properties. We also expect that new properties will be built in our markets. In addition, we compete with other buyers, many of which are larger than us, for attractive commercial properties. Therefore, we may not be able to grow as rapidly as we would like.

*We may be adversely affected if casualties to our properties are not covered by insurance:* We could suffer uninsured losses or losses in excess of our insurance policy limits for occurrences such as earthquakes or hurricanes that adversely affect us or even result in loss of the property. We might still remain liable on any mortgage debt or other unsatisfied obligations related to that property.

*The illiquidity of our real estate investments may prevent us from adjusting our portfolio to respond to market changes:* There may be delays and difficulties in selling real estate. Therefore, we cannot easily change our portfolio when economic conditions change. Also, tax laws limit a REIT's ability to sell properties held for less than four years.

*We may be adversely affected by changes in laws:* Increases in income and service taxes may reduce our cash flow and ability to make expected distributions to our shareholders. Our properties are also subject to various federal, state

and local regulatory requirements, such as state and local fire and safety codes. If we fail to comply with these requirements, governmental authorities could fine us or courts could award damages against us. We believe our properties comply with all significant legal requirements. However, these requirements could change in a way that would reduce our cash flow and ability to make distributions to shareholders.

*We may incur significant environmental remediation costs:* Under various federal, state and local environmental laws, an owner or operator of real estate may have to clean spills or other releases of hazardous or toxic substances on or from a property. Certain environmental laws impose liability whether or not the owner knew of, or was responsible for, the presence of the hazardous or toxic substances. In some cases, liability may exceed the value of the property. The presence of toxic substances, or the failure to properly remedy any resulting contamination, may make it more difficult for the owner or operator to sell, lease or operate its property or to borrow money using its property as collateral. Future environmental laws may impose additional material liabilities on us.

**We depend on external sources of capital to grow our company.**

We are generally required under the Internal Revenue Code to distribute at least 90% of our taxable income. Because of this distribution requirement, we may not be able to fund future capital needs, including any necessary building and tenant improvements, from operating cash flow. Consequently, we may need to rely on third-party sources of capital to fund our capital needs. We may not be able to obtain the financing on favorable terms or at all. Access to third-party sources of capital depends, in part, on general market conditions, the market's perception of our growth potential, our current and expected future earnings, our cash flow, and the market price per share of our common stock. If we cannot obtain capital from third-party sources, we may not be able to acquire properties when strategic opportunities exist, satisfy any debt service obligations, or make cash distributions to shareholders.

**Our ability to control our properties may be adversely affected by ownership through partnerships and joint ventures.**

We own most of our properties through our Operating Partnership. Our organizational documents do not prevent us from acquiring properties with others through partnerships or joint ventures. This type of investment may present additional risks. For example, our partners may have interests that differ from ours or that conflict with ours, or our partners may become bankrupt.

**We can change our business policies and increase our level of debt without shareholder approval.**

Our board of directors establishes our investment, financing, distribution and our other business policies and may change these policies without shareholder approval. Our organizational documents do not limit our level of debt. A change in our policies or an increase in our level of debt could adversely affect our operations or the price of our common stock.

**We can issue additional securities without shareholder approval.**

We can issue preferred equity, common stock and Equity Stock without shareholder approval. Holders of preferred stock have priority over holders of common stock, and the issuance of additional shares of stock reduces the interest of existing holders in our company.

**Increases in interest rates may adversely affect the market price of our common stock.**

One of the factors that influences the market price of our common stock is the annual rate of distributions that we pay on our common stock, as compared with interest rates. An increase in interest rates may lead purchasers of REIT shares to demand higher annual distribution rates, which could adversely affect the market price of our common stock.

**Shares that become available for future sale may adversely affect the market price of our common stock.**



Substantial sales of our common stock, or the perception that substantial sales may occur, could adversely affect the market price of our common stock. As of December 31, 2009, PS and its affiliates owned 23.8% of the outstanding shares of the Company's common stock and 23.0% of the outstanding common units of the Operating Partnership (100% of the common units not owned by the Company). Assuming issuance of the Company's common stock upon redemption of its partnership units, PS would own 41.3% of the outstanding shares of the

Company's common stock. These shares, as well as shares of common stock held by certain other significant shareholders, are eligible to be sold in the public market, subject to compliance with applicable securities laws.

**We depend on key personnel.**

We depend on our key personnel, including Joseph D. Russell, Jr., our President and Chief Executive Officer. The loss of Mr. Russell or other key personnel could adversely affect our operations. We maintain no key person insurance on our key personnel.

**Change in taxation of corporate dividends may adversely affect the value of our shares.**

The Jobs and Growth Tax Relief Reconciliation Act of 2003, enacted on May 28, 2003, generally reduced to 15% the maximum marginal rate of federal tax payable by individuals on dividends received from a regular C corporation. This reduced tax rate, however, does not apply to dividends paid to individuals by a REIT on its shares except for certain limited amounts. The earnings of a REIT that are distributed to its shareholders are generally subject to less federal income taxation on an aggregate basis than earnings of a regular C corporation that are distributed to its shareholders net of corporate-level income tax. The Jobs and Growth Tax Act, however, could cause individual investors to view stocks of regular C corporations as more attractive relative to shares of REITs than was the case prior to the enactment of the legislation because the dividends from regular C corporations, which previously were taxed at the same rate as REIT dividends, are now at a maximum marginal rate of 15% while REIT dividends are generally taxed at a maximum marginal rate of 35%.

**ITEM 1B. UNRESOLVED STAFF COMMENTS**

None.

**ITEM 2. PROPERTIES**

As of December 31, 2009, the Company owned approximately 12.2 million square feet of flex space, 3.9 million square feet of industrial space and 3.4 million square feet of office space concentrated primarily in 10 regions consisting of Southern and Northern California, Southern and Northern Texas, South Florida, Virginia, Maryland, Oregon, Arizona and Washington. Additionally, the Company owned 131,000 square feet of office space in Southern Texas classified as properties held for disposition at December 31, 2009. The weighted average occupancy rate throughout 2009 was 90.4% and the average realized rent per square foot was \$15.43, both of which exclude the effect of assets classified as held for disposition.

The following table contains information about all properties (excluding those classified as properties held for disposition) owned by the Company as of December 31, 2009 and the weighted average occupancy rates throughout 2009 (except as set forth below, all of the properties are held in fee simple interest) (*in thousands*):

Location	Rentable Square Footage				Weighted Average Occupancy Rate
	Flex	Industrial	Office	Total	
<b>Arizona</b>					
Mesa	78			78	81.2%
Phoenix	310			310	80.4%
Tempe	291			291	92.1%
	679			679	85.5%
<b>Northern California</b>					
Hayward		407		407	96.1%
Monterey			12	12	86.9%
Sacramento			367	367	84.6%
San Jose	708			708	87.3%
San Ramon			52	52	84.8%
Santa Clara	178			178	52.0%
So. San Francisco	94			94	93.8%
	980	407	431	1,818	85.5%
<b>Southern California</b>					
Buena Park		317		317	98.7%
Carson	77			77	87.3%
Cerritos		395	31	426	98.7%
Culver City	149			149	94.8%
Irvine			160	160	95.9%
Laguna Hills	614			614	91.2%
Lake Forest	297			297	89.6%
Monterey Park	199			199	86.7%
Orange			108	108	85.3%
San Diego(1)	768			768	92.2%

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Santa Ana			437	437	82.6%
Signal Hill	267			267	87.4%
Studio City	22			22	90.8%
Torrance	147			147	90.8%
	2,540	712	736	3,988	91.3%
<b>Maryland</b>					
Beltsville	309			309	84.8%
Gaithersburg			29	29	97.8%
Rockville	212		688	900	95.6%
Silver Spring(1)	366		166	532	89.9%
	887		883	1,770	92.1%
<b>Oregon</b>					
Beaverton	1,024		188	1,212	79.4%
Milwaukee	102			102	86.5%
	1,126		188	1,314	79.9%

Location	Rentable Square Footage				Weighted Average Occupancy Rate
	Flex	Industrial	Office	Total	
<b>Northern Texas</b>					
Dallas	237			237	86.0%
Farmers Branch	112			112	79.4%
Garland	36			36	84.1%
Irving(2)	715	231		946	94.3%
Mesquite	57			57	92.4%
Plano	184			184	92.7%
Richardson	117			117	86.3%
	1,458	231		1,689	91.1%
<b>Southern Texas</b>					
Austin	787			787	83.8%
Houston	177			177	92.6%
Missouri City	66			66	97.5%
	1,030			1,030	86.2%
<b>South Florida</b>					
Boca Raton(1)	135			135	87.2%
Miami	631	2,556	12	3,199	95.4%
Wellington(1)	262			262	86.6%
	1,028	2,556	12	3,596	94.5%
<b>Virginia</b>					
Alexandria	155		54	209	94.2%
Chantilly	563		38	601	82.3%
Fairfax			292	292	90.9%
Herndon			244	244	95.0%
Lorton	246			246	98.0%
Merrifield	303		355	658	98.9%
Springfield	270		90	360	97.6%
Sterling	296			296	97.3%
Woodbridge	114			114	93.4%
	1,947		1,073	3,020	93.6%
<b>Washington</b>					
Redmond	465		28	493	88.8%
Renton	28			28	77.0%
	493		28	521	88.2%

Total	12,168	3,906	3,351	19,425	90.4%
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- (1) Five commercial properties, one in San Diego, California, one in Silver Spring, Maryland, one in Boca Raton, Florida, and two in Wellington, Florida, serve as collateral to mortgage notes payable. For more information, see Note 6 to the consolidated financial statements.
- (2) The Company owns two properties that are subject to ground leases in Las Colinas, Texas, expiring in 2019 and 2020, each with one 10 year extension option.

We currently anticipate that each of the properties listed above will continue to be used for its current purpose. Competition exists in each of the market areas in which these properties are located. For information regarding general competitive conditions to which the Company's properties are or may be subject, see Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations Overview Effect of Economic Conditions on the Company's Primary Markets.

The Company has no plans to change the current use of its properties. The Company typically renovates its properties in connection with the re-leasing of space to tenants and expects that it will pay the costs of such renovations from rental income. The Company has risks that tenants will default on leases and declare bankruptcy. Management believes these risks are mitigated through the Company's geographic diversity and diverse tenant base.

The Company evaluates the performance of its properties primarily based on net operating income ( NOI ). NOI is defined by the Company as rental income as defined by GAAP less cost of operations as defined by GAAP. See Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations Overview Concentration of Portfolio by Region below for more information on NOI, including why the Company presents NOI and how the Company uses NOI. The following information illustrates rental income, cost of operations and NOI generated by the Company's total portfolio in 2009, 2008 and 2007 by geographic region and by property classifications. As a result of acquisitions and dispositions, certain properties were not held for the full year.

The Company's calculation of NOI may not be comparable to those of other companies and should not be used as an alternative to measures of performance in accordance with GAAP. The tables below also include a reconciliation of NOI to the most comparable amounts based on GAAP (*in thousands*):

	<b>For The Year Ended December 31, 2009</b>	<b>For The Year Ended December 31, 2008</b>	<b>For The Year Ended December 31, 2007</b>
<b>Flex</b>			
<b>Office</b>			
<b>Industrial</b>			

The underwriting agreement provides that the obligations of the underwriters to purchase the shares included in this offering are subject to approval of legal matters by counsel and to other conditions. The underwriters are obligated to purchase all the shares (other than those covered by the over-allotment option described below) if they purchase any of the shares.

The underwriters initially propose to offer the shares of Series A Preferred Stock directly to the public at the public offering price set forth on the cover page of this prospectus supplement and to certain dealers at a price that represents a concession not in excess of \$ per share below the public offering price. Any underwriters may allow, and such dealers may re-allow, a concession not in excess of \$ per share to other underwriters or to certain dealers. If the shares are not sold at the initial price to the public, the underwriters may change the offering price and the other selling terms. The offering of the shares by the underwriters is subject to receipt and acceptance and subject to the underwriters' right to reject any order in whole or in part.

We have granted to the underwriters an option, exercisable for 30 days from the date of this prospectus supplement, to purchase up to additional shares at the public offering price less the underwriting discount. The underwriters may exercise the option solely for the purpose of covering over-allotments, if any, in connection with this offering. To the extent the option is exercised, each underwriter must purchase a number of additional shares approximately proportionate to that underwriter's initial purchase commitment. Any shares issued or sold under the option will be issued and sold on the same terms and conditions as the other shares that are the subject of this offering.

We have agreed that, for a period of 30 days from the date of this prospectus supplement, we will not, without the prior written consent of Morgan Stanley & Co. LLC, dispose of or hedge any shares of Series A Preferred Stock or other preferred stock or any securities convertible into or exchangeable for shares of Series A Preferred Stock or other preferred stock.

The Series A Preferred Stock has not been rated. No current market exists for the Series A Preferred Stock. We intend to apply to list the Series A Preferred Stock on the NYSE under the symbol CIM PRA . If the application is approved, trading of the Series A Preferred Stock on the NYSE is expected to begin within 30 days after the date of initial issuance of the Series A Preferred Stock. Certain of the underwriters have advised us that they intend to make a market in the Series A Preferred Stock prior to the commencement of any trading on the NYSE, but they are not obligated to do so and may discontinue market making at any time without notice. We cannot assure you that a market for the Series A Preferred Stock will develop prior to the commencement of trading on the NYSE or, if developed,

will be maintained or will provide you with adequate liquidity.

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The following table shows the underwriting discounts and commissions that we are to pay to the underwriters in connection with this offering. These amounts are shown assuming both no exercise and full exercise of the underwriters' over-allotment option.

	<b>Per Share</b>	<b>Total Without Over- Allotment</b>	<b>With Over- Allotment</b>
Underwriting discount paid by us	\$	\$	\$
Proceeds, before expenses, to us	\$	\$	\$

We estimate that our total expenses incurred in connection with this offering, excluding the underwriting discounts, will be approximately \$300,000.

In connection with the offering, the underwriters may purchase and sell shares in the open market. Purchases and sales in the open market may include short sales, purchases to cover short positions, which may include purchases pursuant to the over-allotment option, and stabilizing purchases.

Short sales involve secondary market sales by the underwriters of a greater number of shares than they are required to purchase in the offering.

Covered short sales are sales of shares in an amount up to the number of shares represented by the underwriters' over-allotment option.

Naked short sales are sales of shares in an amount in excess of the number of shares represented by the underwriters' over-allotment option.

Covering transactions involve purchases of shares either pursuant to the over-allotment option or in the open market after the distribution has been completed in order to cover short positions.

To close a naked short position, the underwriters must purchase shares in the open market after the distribution has been completed. A naked short position is more likely to be created if the underwriters are concerned that there may be downward pressure on the price of the shares in the open market after pricing that could adversely affect investors who purchase in the offering.

To close a covered short position, the underwriters must purchase shares in the open market after the distribution has been completed or must exercise the over-allotment option. In determining the source of shares to close the covered short position, the underwriters will consider, among other things, the price of shares available for purchase in the open market as compared to the price at which they may purchase shares through the over-allotment option.

Stabilizing transactions involve bids to purchase shares so long as the stabilizing bids do not exceed a specified maximum.

Purchases to cover short positions and stabilizing purchases, as well as other purchases by the underwriters for their own accounts, may have the effect of preventing or retarding a decline in the market price of the shares. They may also cause the price of the shares to be higher than the price that would otherwise exist in the open market in the absence of these transactions. The underwriters may conduct these transactions on the NYSE, in the over-the-counter market or otherwise. If the underwriters commence any of these transactions, they may discontinue them at any time.

Certain underwriters or their affiliates have performed, and in the future may perform, commercial banking, investment banking and advisory services for us in the ordinary course of their business for which they have received, and in the future are expected to receive, customary fees. Some of the underwriters or their affiliates have engaged in, and may in the future engage in, investment banking and other commercial dealings in the ordinary course of business with our affiliates. They have received, or may in the future receive, customary fees and commissions for these transactions.

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We have agreed to indemnify the underwriters against certain liabilities, including liabilities under the Securities Act, or to contribute to payments the underwriters may be required to make because of any of those liabilities.

**Settlement**

We expect that delivery of the shares of Series A Preferred Stock will be made to investors on October 1, 2016, which will be the fifth business day following the date of this prospectus supplement (such settlement being referred to as T+5). Under Rule 15c6-1 under the Exchange Act, trades in the secondary market are required to settle in three business days, unless the parties to any such trade expressly agree otherwise. Accordingly, purchasers who wish to trade shares of Series A Preferred Stock prior to October 1, 2016 will be required, by virtue of the fact that the shares of Series A Preferred Stock initially settle in T+5, to specify an alternative settlement arrangement at the time of any such trade to prevent a failed settlement. Purchasers of the shares of Series A Preferred Stock who wish to trade shares of Series A Preferred Stock prior to their date of delivery hereunder should consult their advisors.

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**LEGAL MATTERS**

Certain legal matters in connection with this offering will be passed upon for us by Hunton & Williams LLP and, with respect to certain matters of Maryland law, Venable LLP. Certain U.S. federal income tax matters will be passed upon for us by K&L Gates LLP. Certain legal matters will be passed upon for the underwriters by Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer US LLP.

**EXPERTS**

The consolidated financial statements of Chimera Investment Corporation appearing in Chimera Investment Corporation's Annual Report (Form 10-K) for the year ended December 31, 2015, and the effectiveness of Chimera Investment Corporation's internal control over financial reporting as of December 31, 2015, have been audited by Ernst & Young LLP, independent registered public accounting firm, as set forth in their reports thereon included therein, and incorporated herein by reference. Such financial statements are, and audited financial statements to be included in subsequently filed documents will be, incorporated herein in reliance upon the reports of Ernst & Young LLP pertaining to such financial statements and the effectiveness of our internal control over financial reporting as of the respective dates (to the extent covered by consents filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission) given on the authority of such firm as experts in accounting and auditing.

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**INCORPORATION OF CERTAIN DOCUMENTS BY REFERENCE**

We are incorporating by reference certain information that we file with the SEC, which means that we are disclosing important information to you by referring you to another document filed separately with the SEC. The information incorporated by reference is an important part of this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus, and the information that we subsequently file with the SEC will automatically update and supersede information in this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus and in our other filings with the SEC. We have filed the documents listed below with the SEC (File No. 001-33796) under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended, or the Exchange Act, and these documents are incorporated herein by reference. We are not, however, incorporating by reference any documents or portions thereof, whether specifically listed below or filed in the future, that are not deemed filed with the SEC, including without limitation any information furnished pursuant to Items 2.02 or 7.01 of Form 8-K.

Our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2015, filed on February 25, 2016;

The information specifically incorporated by reference into our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2015 from our Definitive Proxy Statement on Schedule 14A filed on April 20, 2016;

Our Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the quarterly period ended March 31, 2016, filed on May 4, 2016;

Our Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the quarterly period ended June 30, 2016, filed on August 4, 2016;

Our Current Reports on Form 8-K, filed on January 21, 2016, February 1, 2016, April 6, 2016, May 31, 2016 and June 9, 2016; and

The description of our common stock, par value \$0.01 per share, included in our Registration Statement on Form 8-A, filed on November 5, 2007.

All documents we file with the SEC pursuant to Sections 13(a), 13(c), 14 or 15(d) of the Exchange Act after the date of this prospectus supplement and before the termination of the offering of the securities to which this prospectus supplement relates (other than information in such documents that is not deemed to be filed) shall be deemed to be incorporated by reference into this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus and to be part hereof from the date of filing of those documents.

Any statement contained in a document that is incorporated by reference in this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus is automatically updated and superseded to the extent that a statement contained in this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus or in any other document that we file with the SEC, and which is also incorporated by reference in this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus, modifies or replaces that statement.

We will provide to each person, including any beneficial owner, to whom a copy of this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus is delivered, a copy of any or all of the information that has been incorporated by

reference in this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus but not delivered with this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus (other than the exhibits to such documents unless those exhibits are specifically incorporated by reference into those documents); we will provide this information at no cost to the requester upon written or oral request to Investor Relations, Chimera Investment Corporation, 520 Madison Ave., 32nd Floor, New York, New York 10022, telephone number (212) 626-2300.

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**PROSPECTUS**

**Common Stock, Preferred Stock, Warrants, and Debt Securities**

By this prospectus, we may offer, from time to time:

shares of our common stock;

shares of our preferred stock;

warrants to purchase shares of our common stock, shares of our preferred stock or debt securities; and

debt securities, which may consist of debentures, notes, or other types of debt.

The securities covered by this registration statement may be sold or otherwise distributed separately, together or as units with other securities covered by this registration statement. We will provide specific terms of each issuance of these securities in supplements to this prospectus. You should read this prospectus and any supplement carefully before you decide to invest.

This prospectus may not be used to consummate sales of these securities unless it is accompanied by a prospectus supplement.

The New York Stock Exchange lists our common stock under the symbol CIM.

To assist us in qualifying as a real estate investment trust, or REIT, for U.S. federal income tax purposes, no person may own more than 9.8% of the outstanding shares of any class of our common stock or our preferred stock, unless our Board of Directors waives this limitation.

**Investing in these securities involves risks. You should carefully consider the information referred to under the heading Risk Factors beginning on page 4 of this prospectus.**

We may sell these securities to or through underwriters, dealers or agents, or we may sell the securities directly to investors on our own behalf.

**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 29, 2016**



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**ABOUT THIS PROSPECTUS**

This prospectus is part of a registration statement that we filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission (or the SEC or Commission) using a shelf registration process. Under this shelf registration process, we may offer and sell the securities described in this prospectus in one or more offerings. This prospectus provides you with a general description of the securities we may offer. Each time we offer to sell securities, we will provide a supplement to this prospectus that will contain specific information about the terms of that offering. The prospectus supplement may also add, update or change information contained in this prospectus. It is important for you to consider the information contained in this prospectus and any prospectus supplement together with additional information described under the heading **Where You Can Find More Information**.

You should rely only on the information contained in or incorporated by reference in or set forth in this prospectus or the applicable prospectus supplement. We have not authorized any other person to provide you with additional or different information. If anyone provides you with different or inconsistent information, you should not rely on it. We are not making an offer to sell these securities in any jurisdiction where the offer or sale is not permitted. You should not assume that the information in this prospectus, the applicable prospectus supplement or any other offering material is accurate as of any date other than the dates on the front of those documents.

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**A WARNING ABOUT FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS**

Certain statements contained in this prospectus, any prospectus supplement and any other offering material, and the information incorporated by reference in this prospectus, any prospectus supplement and/or any other offering material, and certain statements contained in our future filings with the SEC, in our press releases or in our other public or shareholder communications may not be based on historical facts and are forward-looking statements within the meaning of Section 27A of the Securities Act of 1933, as amended (or the Securities Act), and Section 21E of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended (or the Exchange Act). Forward-looking statements, which are based on various assumptions (some of which are beyond our control), may be identified by reference to a future period or periods or by the use of forward-looking terminology, such as may, will, believe, expect, anticipate, continue, intend, estimate, plan, or similar terms, variations on those terms or the negative of those terms. Actual results could differ materially from those set forth in forward-looking statements due to a variety of factors, including, but not limited to:

our business and investment strategy;

our ability to maintain existing financing arrangements and our ability to obtain future financing arrangements;

our expectations regarding materiality or significance;

additional information that may arise from the preparation of our financial statements;

general volatility of the securities markets in which we invest;

the impact of and changes to various government programs;

our expected investments;

changes in the value of our investments;

interest rate mismatches between our investments and our borrowings used to finance such purchases;

changes in interest rates and mortgage prepayment rates;

effects of interest rate caps on our adjustable-rate investments;

rates of default, delinquencies or decreased recovery rates on our investments;

prepayments of the mortgage and other loans underlying our mortgage-backed securities or other asset-backed securities, or ABS;

the degree to which our hedging strategies may or may not protect us from interest rate volatility;

impact of and changes in governmental regulations, tax law and rates, accounting guidance, and similar matters;

availability of investment opportunities in real estate-related and other securities;

availability of qualified personnel;

estimates relating to our ability to make distributions to our stockholders in the future;

our understanding of our competition;

market trends in our industry, interest rates, the debt securities markets or the general economy;

our transition from an externally-managed real estate investment trust, or REIT, to an internally-managed REIT (see below under [The Internalization](#) );

our ability to maintain our classification as a real estate investment trust, or REIT, for U.S. federal income tax purposes;

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our ability to maintain our exemption from registration under the Investment Company Act of 1940, as amended, or 1940 Act;

use of proceeds of this offering;

the effectiveness of our disclosure controls and procedures;

material weaknesses in our internal control over financial reporting; and

inadequacy of or weakness in our internal control over financial reporting of which we are not currently aware or which have not been detected.

The forward-looking statements are based on our beliefs, assumptions and expectations of our future performance, taking into account all information currently available to us. You should not place undue reliance on these forward-looking statements. These beliefs, assumptions and expectations can change as a result of many possible events or factors, not all of which are known to us. Some of these factors are described under the caption "About Chimera Investment Corporation" in this prospectus and under the caption "Risk Factors" in our most recent Annual Report on Form 10-K and our subsequent Quarterly Reports on Form 10-Q, which are incorporated by reference in the prospectus. If a change occurs, our business, financial condition, liquidity and results of operations may vary materially from those expressed in our forward-looking statements. Any forward-looking statement speaks only as of the date on which it is made. New risks and uncertainties arise from time to time, and it is impossible for us to predict those events or how they may affect us. Except as required by law, we are not obligated to, and do not intend to, update or revise any forward-looking statements, whether as a result of new information, future events or otherwise.

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**ABOUT CHIMERA INVESTMENT CORPORATION**

**General**

We are a publicly traded real estate investment trust, or REIT, that commenced operations on November 21, 2007. We invest, either directly or indirectly through our subsidiaries, in residential mortgage-backed securities, or RMBS, residential mortgage loans, Agency commercial mortgage-backed securities, or Agency CMBS, commercial mortgage loans, real estate-related securities and various other asset classes. We have elected and believe that we are organized and have operated in a manner that enables us to be taxed as a REIT under the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended, or the Code. If we qualify for taxation as a REIT, we generally will not be subject to U.S. federal income tax on our taxable income that is distributed to our stockholders. To ensure we qualify as a REIT, no person may own more than 9.8% of the outstanding shares of any class of our common stock, unless our Board of Directors waives this limitation.

**The Internalization**

On August 5, 2015, we entered into agreements to internalize the Company's management, or the Internalization. Before the Internalization, we were managed by Fixed Income Discount Advisory Company, or FIDAC, an investment advisor registered with the Securities and Exchange Commission, or SEC, and a wholly-owned subsidiary of Annaly Capital Management Inc., or Annaly. Pursuant to a transition services agreement that we entered into with FIDAC on August 5, 2015, or the Transition Services Agreement, we terminated the management agreement with FIDAC, or the Management Agreement, and the Administrative Services Agreement, with RCap Securities, Inc., or RCap, a sister company of FIDAC, in each case without the payment of any termination fee, and we hired a number of employees formerly employed by FIDAC or its affiliates. In addition, we entered into a share repurchase agreement with Annaly, pursuant to which, we agreed to purchase all 8,996,553 shares of our common stock owned by Annaly. We are no longer an affiliate of Annaly.

For more information regarding the Internalization, including information related to arrangements with our management team and the appointment of certain new members of management, please refer to our Current Report on Form 8-K filed on August 5, 2015.

**Our Investment Strategy**

We commenced operations in November 2007 and focus our investment activities primarily on acquiring Non-Agency and Agency MBS and on purchasing residential mortgage loans that have been originated by select originators, including the retail lending operations of leading commercial banks.

We make investment decisions based on various factors, including expected cash yield, relative value, risk-adjusted returns, current and projected credit fundamentals, current and projected macroeconomic considerations, current and projected supply and demand, credit and market risk concentration limits, liquidity, cost of financing and financing availability, as well as maintaining our REIT qualification and our exemption from registration under the 1940 Act.

We have engaged in transactions with residential mortgage lending operations of leading commercial banks and other originators in which we identified and re-underwrote residential mortgage loans owned by such entities, and purchased and securitized such residential mortgage loans. In the past, we have also acquired formerly AAA-rated Non-Agency RMBS and immediately re-securitized those securities. We sold the resulting AAA-rated super senior RMBS and retained the rated or unrated mezzanine RMBS.

We use leverage to seek to increase potential returns and to finance the acquisition of our assets. We are not required to maintain any specific debt-to-equity ratio as we believe the appropriate leverage for the particular assets we are financing depends on the credit quality and risk of those assets. Subject to maintaining our REIT

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qualification, we may use a number of sources to finance our investments, including repurchase agreements, warehouse facilities, securitization and resecuritizations of real estate mortgage investment conduits. We may manage our debt and interest rate risk by utilizing interest rate hedges, such as interest rate swaps, caps, options and futures to reduce the effect of interest rate fluctuations related to our financing sources.

Our investment strategy is intended to take advantage of opportunities in the current interest rate and credit environment. We expect to adjust our strategy to changing market conditions by shifting our asset allocations across these various asset classes as interest rate and credit cycles change over time. We believe that our strategy will enable us to pay dividends and achieve capital appreciation throughout changing market cycles. We expect to take a long-term view of assets and liabilities, and our reported earnings and estimates of the fair value of our investments at the end of a financial reporting period will not significantly impact our objective of providing attractive risk-adjusted returns to our stockholders over the long-term.

## **Our Assets**

At September 30, 2015, our portfolio consisted of an Agency MBS component and a residential mortgage credit component. The Agency MBS component consisted of Agency RMBS, Agency CMBS and Agency IOs. Our residential mortgage credit component consisted of Non-Agency RMBS and securitized residential mortgage loans. Our investment guidelines permit us to acquire a broad range of assets including Non-Agency CMBS, CDOs, consumer and non-consumer ABS, and commercial mortgage loans.

### **Agency MBS**

#### *Agency RMBS*

Agency RMBS are securities created through the securitization of residential mortgage loans, where such securities are issued or guaranteed by a U.S. Government agency, such as Ginnie Mae, or by a GSE, such as Fannie Mae or Freddie Mac. Agency RMBS generally offer more stable cash flows and historically have been subject to lower credit risk and greater price stability than the other types of residential mortgage investments we intend to target. The Agency RMBS that we may acquire could be secured by fixed-rate mortgages, adjustable-rate mortgages or hybrid adjustable-rate mortgages. At September 30, 2015, based on the amortized cost balance of our interest earning assets, approximately 36% of our investment portfolio was Agency RMBS, down from approximately 51% at December 31, 2014.

#### *Agency CMBS*

Agency CMBS are securities created through the securitization of commercial mortgage loans, where such securities are issued or guaranteed by a U.S. Government agency, such as Ginnie Mae, or by a GSE, such as Fannie Mae or Freddie Mac. The commercial mortgage loans backing our Agency CMBS are typically secured by multifamily housing, hospitals, nursing homes and assisted living facilities. We typically commit funds to FHA/Ginnie Mae approved projects, and construction draw schedules are typically 12 to 24 months. We lock a fixed coupon and spread on the commitment date. As draws are funded, we receive Ginnie Mae construction bonds (CLCs), and when all draws are funded, Ginnie Mae issues us a permanent loan bond (PLC). We believe that these Agency CMBS offer comparable returns to our Agency RMBS with prepayment protection based on lock out and prepayment penalties. At September 30, 2015, approximately 6% of our Agency MBS portfolio was Agency CMBS, up from 0% at December 31, 2014. At September 30, 2015, our Agency CMBS portfolio had an aggregate face value of approximately \$853 million, with about \$150 million having been funded and the balance to be funded as the projects are completed.



*Agency IO*

Agency IOs are securities created through the securitization of residential (or commercial) mortgage loans, but only entitle the holder to interest payments. The yield to maturity of interest only Agency MBS is extremely

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sensitive to the rate of principal payments (particularly prepayments) on the underlying pool of mortgage loans. If we decide to invest in these types of securities, we anticipate doing so primarily to take advantage of particularly attractive prepayment-related or structural opportunities in the Agency MBS markets. At September 30, 2015, based on the amortized cost balance of our interest earning assets, Agency IOs constituted less than 2% of our entire portfolio.

## **Residential Mortgage Credit**

### *Non-Agency RMBS*

Non-Agency RMBS are securities created through the securitization of residential mortgage loans, where such securities are neither issued nor guaranteed by a U.S. Government agency, such as Ginnie Mae, or by a GSE, such as Fannie Mae or Freddie Mac. The onset of the financial crisis in 2007 led to significant volatility in the prices for Non-Agency RMBS. The crisis resulted in a widespread contraction in capital available for this asset class, deteriorating housing fundamentals, and an increase in forced selling by institutional investors (often in response to rating agency downgrades). While the prices of these assets have recovered from their lows, we believe a meaningful gap still exists between current prices and the recovery value of many Non-Agency RMBS. Accordingly, we believe there are opportunities to acquire Non-Agency RMBS at attractive risk-adjusted yields, with the potential for meaningful upside if the U.S. economy and housing market continue to strengthen. We believe the value of existing Non-Agency RMBS may also rise if the number of buyers returns to pre-2007 levels. Furthermore, we believe that in many Non-Agency RMBS vehicles there is a meaningful discrepancy between the value of the Non-Agency RMBS and the recovery value of the underlying collateral. We intend to pursue opportunities to structure transactions that would enable us to realize this difference, particularly through the acquisition and execution of call rights. The Non-Agency RMBS we may acquire could be secured by fixed-rate mortgages, adjustable-rate mortgages or hybrid adjustable-rate mortgages. The mortgage loan collateral may be classified as conforming or non-conforming, depending on a variety of factors. At September 30, 2015, based on the amortized cost balance of our interest earning assets, 20% of our investment portfolio was Non-Agency RMBS, up from approximately 16% at December 31, 2014.

### *Securitized Residential Mortgage Loans*

Our securitized loan portfolio is comprised of non-conforming, single family, owner occupied, jumbo, prime loans, and seasoned subprime loans that are not guaranteed as to repayment of principal or interest. These securitized loans are serviced and may be modified, in the event of a default, by a third-party servicer. We generally have the ability to approve certain loan modifications and determine the course of action to be taken as it relates to certain loans in default, including whether or not to proceed with foreclosure. At September 30, 2015, based on the amortized cost balance of our interest earning assets, approximately 36% of our investment portfolio was securitized residential mortgage loans, up from 32% at December 31, 2014.

## **Stock Listing**

Our common stock is traded on the New York Stock Exchange under the symbol CIM.

## **Principal Executive Offices and Telephone Number**

Our principal executive offices are located at 520 Madison Ave, 32<sup>nd</sup> Floor, New York, New York 10022. Our telephone number is (212) 626-2300.

## **Internet Address**

Our internet address is [www.chimerareit.com](http://www.chimerareit.com). Information contained on our internet website is not, and should not be interpreted to be, a part of this prospectus.

**Table of Contents****RISK FACTORS**

Investing in our securities involves risks. You should carefully consider the risks described under **Risk Factors** in our most recent Annual Report on Form 10-K and any subsequent Quarterly Reports on Form 10-Q (which descriptions are incorporated by reference herein), as well as the other information contained or incorporated by reference in this prospectus or in any prospectus supplement hereto before making a decision to invest in our securities. See **Where You Can Find More Information** below.

**USE OF PROCEEDS**

Unless otherwise indicated in an accompanying prospectus supplement, we intend to use the net proceeds from the sale of the securities offered by this prospectus and the related accompanying prospectus supplement to finance the acquisition of non-Agency RMBS, Agency RMBS, residential mortgage loans, Agency and non-Agency CMBS, CDOs and other consumer or non-consumer ABS, and for other general corporate purposes such as repayment of outstanding indebtedness, working capital, and for liquidity needs. Pending any such uses, we may invest the net proceeds from the sale of any securities in interest-bearing short-term investments, including money market accounts that are consistent with our intention to qualify as a REIT, or we may use them to reduce short-term indebtedness.

**RATIO OF EARNINGS TO COMBINED FIXED CHARGES AND PREFERRED STOCK DIVIDENDS**

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

	<b>Fiscal Years Ended December 31,</b>					
	<b>Nine Months Ended September 30,</b>					
	<b>2015</b>	<b>2014</b>	<b>2013</b>	<b>2012</b>	<b>2011</b>	<b>2010</b>
Ratio of earnings to combined fixed charges and preferred stock dividends	1.59x	3.94x	3.93x	3.23x	1.91x	2.64x

The ratios of earnings to combined fixed charges and preferred stock dividends were computed by dividing earnings as adjusted by fixed charges and preferred stock dividends (where applicable). For this purpose, earnings consist of net income from continuing operations and fixed charges. We currently have no shares of preferred stock outstanding and, therefore, there are no amounts for preferred dividends included in the above calculation. Fixed charges consist of interest expense.

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**DESCRIPTION OF EQUITY SECURITIES**

**General**

Our charter provides that we may issue up to 400,000,000 shares of stock, consisting of up to 300,000,000 shares of common stock having a par value of \$0.01 per share and up to 100,000,000 shares of preferred stock having a par value of \$0.01 per share. As of October 21, 2015, 189,014,216 shares of common stock and no shares of preferred stock were issued and outstanding. Our board of directors, with the approval of a majority of the entire board and without any action on the part of our stockholders, may amend our charter from time to time to increase or decrease the aggregate number of shares of stock or the number of shares of stock of any class or series that we have authority to issue. Under Maryland law, our stockholders generally are not personally liable for our debts and obligations solely as a result of their status as stockholders.

**Common Stock**

All shares of our common stock have equal rights as to earnings, assets, dividends and voting and, when they are issued, will be duly authorized, validly issued, fully paid and non-assessable. Distributions may be paid to the holders of our common stock if, as and when authorized by our board of directors and declared by us out of funds legally available therefor. Shares of our common stock have no preemptive, appraisal, preferential exchange, conversion or redemption rights and are freely transferable, except where their transfer is restricted by federal and state securities laws, by contract or by the restrictions in our charter. In the event of our liquidation, dissolution or winding up, each share of our common stock would be entitled to share ratably in all of our assets that are legally available for distribution after payment of or adequate provision for all of our known debts and other liabilities and subject to any preferential rights of holders of our preferred stock, if any preferred stock is outstanding at such time. Subject to our charter restrictions on the transfer and ownership of our stock and except as may otherwise be specified in the terms of any class or series of common stock, each 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. Except as provided with respect to any other class or series of stock, the holders of our common stock will possess exclusive voting power. There is no cumulative voting in the election of directors, which means that holders of a majority of the outstanding shares of common stock can elect all of our directors, and holders of less than a majority of such shares will be unable to elect any director.

**Preferred Stock**

The following description sets forth general terms and provisions of the preferred stock to which any prospectus supplement may relate. The statements below describing the preferred stock are in all respects subject to and qualified in their entirety by reference to our charter, as amended, by-laws, as amended, and any articles supplementary to our charter, as amended, designating terms of a series of preferred stock. The preferred stock, when issued, will be validly issued, fully paid, and non-assessable. Because our board of directors has the power to establish the preferences, powers and rights of each series of preferred stock, our board of directors may afford the holders of any series of preferred stock preferences, powers and rights, voting or otherwise, senior to the rights of common stockholders.

The rights, preferences, privileges and restrictions of each series of preferred stock will be fixed by the articles supplementary relating to the series. A prospectus supplement, relating to each series, will specify the terms of the preferred stock, as follows:

the title and stated value of the preferred stock;

the voting rights of the preferred stock, if applicable;

the preemptive rights of the preferred stock, if applicable;

the restrictions on alienability of the preferred stock, if applicable;

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the number of shares offered, the liquidation preference per share and the offering price of the shares;

liability to further calls or assessment of the preferred stock, if applicable;

the dividend rate(s), period(s) and payment date(s) or method(s) of calculation applicable to the preferred stock;

the date from which dividends on the preferred stock will accumulate, if applicable;

the procedures for any auction and remarketing for the preferred stock;

the provision for a sinking fund, if any, for the preferred stock;

the provision for and any restriction on redemption, if applicable, of the preferred stock;

the provision for and any restriction on repurchase, if applicable, of the preferred stock;

any listing of the preferred stock on any securities exchange;

the terms and provisions, if any, upon which the preferred stock will be convertible into common stock, including the conversion price (or manner of calculation) and conversion period;

the terms under which the rights of the preferred stock may be modified, if applicable;

any other specific terms, preferences, rights, limitations or restrictions of the preferred stock;

a discussion of material U.S. federal income tax considerations applicable to the preferred stock;

the relative ranking and preferences of the preferred stock as to dividend rights and rights upon the liquidation, dissolution or winding-up of our affairs;

any limitation on issuance of any series of preferred stock ranking senior to or on a parity with the series of preferred stock as to dividend rights and rights upon the liquidation, dissolution or winding-up of our affairs;  
and

any limitations on direct or beneficial ownership and restrictions on transfer of the preferred stock, in each case as may be appropriate to preserve our qualification as a REIT.

**Power to Reclassify Shares of Our Stock**

Our charter authorizes our board of directors to classify and reclassify any unissued shares of stock into other classes or series of stock, including preferred stock. Before issuance of shares of each class or series, the board of directors is required by Maryland law and by our charter to set, subject to our charter restrictions on the transfer and ownership of our stock, 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 class or series. Thus, the board of directors could authorize the issuance of shares of common stock or preferred stock with terms and conditions which could have the effect of delaying, deferring or preventing a transaction or a change in control that might involve a premium price for holders of our common stock or otherwise be in their best interests. No shares of our preferred stock are presently outstanding, and we have no present plans to issue any preferred stock.

**Power to Issue Additional Shares of Common Stock and Preferred Stock**

We believe that the power of our board of directors to amend the charter without stockholder approval to increase the total number of authorized shares of our stock or any class or series of our stock, 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 will provide us with increased flexibility in structuring possible future financings and acquisitions and in meeting other needs that might arise. The additional classes or series, as well as our common stock, will



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be available for issuance without further action by our stockholders, unless stockholder action 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 has no intention at the present time of doing so, it could authorize us to issue a class or series that could, depending upon the terms of such class or series, delay, defer or prevent a transaction or a change in control of us that might involve a premium price for holders of our common stock or otherwise be in their best interests.

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**DESCRIPTION OF WARRANTS**

We may issue warrants to purchase debt or equity securities. We may issue warrants independently or together with any offered securities. The warrants may be attached to or separate from those offered securities. We will issue the warrants under warrant agreements to be entered into between us and a bank or trust company, as warrant agent, all as described in the applicable prospectus supplement. The warrant agent will act solely as our agent in connection with the warrants and will not assume any obligation or relationship of agency or trust for or with any holders or beneficial owners of warrants.

The prospectus supplement relating to any warrants that we may offer will contain the specific terms of the warrants. These terms may include the following:

the title of the warrants;

the designation, amount and terms of the securities for which the warrants are exercisable;

the designation and terms of the other securities, if any, with which the warrants are to be issued and the number of warrants issued with each other security;

the price or prices at which the warrants will be issued;

the aggregate number of warrants;

any provisions for adjustment of the number or amount of securities receivable upon exercise of the warrants or the exercise price of the warrants;

the price or prices at which the securities purchasable upon exercise of the warrants may be purchased;

if applicable, the date on and after which the warrants and the securities purchasable upon exercise of the warrants will be separately transferable;

if applicable, a discussion of the material U.S. federal income tax considerations applicable to the exercise of the warrants;

any other terms of the warrants, including terms, procedures and limitations relating to the exchange and exercise of the warrants;

the date on which the right to exercise the warrants will commence, and the date on which the right will expire;

the maximum or minimum number of warrants that may be exercised at any time; and

information with respect to book-entry procedures, if any.

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**DESCRIPTION OF DEBT SECURITIES**

The following description of debt securities describes general terms and provisions of a series of debt securities to which any prospectus supplement may relate. When we offer to sell a series of debt securities, we will describe the specific terms of the series in the applicable prospectus supplement. If any particular terms of the debt securities of that series or the indenture described in a prospectus supplement differ from any of the terms described in this prospectus, then the terms described in the applicable prospectus supplement will supersede the terms described in this prospectus.

We may issue our debt securities either separately, or together with, or upon the conversion or exercise of or in exchange for, other securities described in this prospectus. The debt securities will be our unsubordinated and, unless otherwise expressly stated in the applicable prospectus supplement, unsecured obligations and may be issued in one or more series. If so indicated in the applicable prospectus supplement, we may issue debt securities that are secured by specified collateral.

The debt securities will be issued under one or more indentures, each to be entered into by us and a trustee, which trustee shall be named in the applicable prospectus supplement. Unless otherwise expressly stated in the applicable prospectus supplement, we may issue both secured and unsecured debt securities under the same indenture. Unless otherwise expressly stated or the context otherwise requires, references in this section to the indenture and the trustee refer to the applicable indenture pursuant to which any particular series of debt securities is issued and to the trustee under that indenture. The terms of any series of debt securities will be those specified in or pursuant to the applicable indenture and in the certificates evidencing that series of debt securities and those made part of the indenture by the Trust Indenture Act of 1939, as amended, or the Trust Indenture Act of 1939.

The following summary of selected provisions of the indenture is not complete, and the summary of selected terms of a particular series of debt securities in the applicable prospectus supplement also will not be complete. You should review the form of applicable indenture, the form of any applicable supplemental indenture and the form of certificate evidencing the applicable debt securities, which forms have been or will be filed as exhibits to the registration statement of which this prospectus is a part or as exhibits to documents which have been or will be incorporated by reference in this prospectus. To obtain a copy of the form of indenture, the form of any such supplemental indenture or the form of certificate for any debt securities, see **Where You Can Find More Information** in this prospectus. The following summary and the summary in the applicable prospectus supplement are qualified in their entirety by reference to all of the provisions of the applicable indenture, any supplemental indenture and the certificates evidencing the applicable debt securities, which provisions, including defined terms, are incorporated by reference in this prospectus.

Capitalized terms used in this section and not defined have the meanings assigned to those terms in the indenture. Unless otherwise expressly stated or the context otherwise requires, references in this section to **Chimera**, **we**, **our** company, **us** and **our** and other similar references mean Chimera Investment Corporation, excluding its subsidiaries.

**General**

The debt securities may be issued from time to time in one or more series. We can issue an unlimited amount of debt securities under the indenture. The indenture provides that debt securities of any series may be issued up to the aggregate principal amount that may be authorized from time to time by us. Please read the applicable prospectus supplement relating to the series of debt securities being offered for specific terms, including, where applicable:

the title of the series of debt securities;

any limit on the aggregate principal amount of debt securities of the series;

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the price or prices at which debt securities of the series will be issued;

the person to whom any interest on a debt security of the series shall be payable, if other than the person in whose name that debt security is registered on the applicable record date;

the date or dates on which we will pay the principal of and premium, if any, on debt securities of the series, or the method or methods, if any, used to determine those dates;

the rate or rates, which may be fixed or variable, at which debt securities of the series will bear interest, if any, or the method or methods, if any, used to determine those rates;

the basis used to calculate interest, if any, on the debt securities of the series if other than a 360-day year of twelve 30-day months;

the date or dates, if any, from which interest on the debt securities of the series will begin to accrue, or the method or methods, if any, used to determine those dates;

the dates on which the interest, if any, on the debt securities of the series will be payable and the record dates for the payment of interest;

the place or places where amounts due on the debt securities of the series will be payable and where the debt securities of the series may be surrendered for registration of transfer and exchange, if other than the corporate trust office of the applicable trustee;

the terms and conditions, if any, upon which we may, at our option, redeem debt securities of the series;

the terms and conditions, if any, upon which we will repurchase or repay debt securities of the series at the option of the holders of debt securities of the series;

the terms of any sinking fund or analogous provision;

if other than U.S. dollars, the currency in which the purchase price for the debt securities of the series will be payable, the currency in which payments on the debt securities of the series will be payable, and the ability, if any, of us or the holders of debt securities of the series to have payments made in any other currency or currencies;

with respect to debt securities of the series, any addition of any covenant or Event of Default, or the modification or deletion of, any covenant or Event of Default;

whether the debt securities of the series are to be issuable, in whole or in part, in bearer form ( bearer debt securities );

whether any debt securities of the series will be issued in temporary or permanent global form ( global debt securities ) and, if so, the identity of the depository for the global debt securities if other than The Depository Trust Company ( DTC );

if and under what circumstances we will pay additional amounts ( Additional Amounts ) on the debt securities of the series in respect of specified taxes, assessments or other governmental charges and, if so, whether we will have the option to redeem the debt securities of the series rather than pay the Additional Amounts;

the manner in which, or the person to whom, any interest on any bearer debt security of the series will be payable, if other than upon presentation and surrender of the coupons relating to the bearer debt security;

the extent to which, or the manner in which, any interest payable on a temporary global debt security will be paid, if other than in the manner provided in the indenture;

the portion of the principal amount of the debt securities of the series which will be payable upon acceleration if other than the full principal amount;

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the authorized denominations in which the debt securities of the series will be issued, if other than denominations of \$1,000 and any integral multiples of \$1,000, in the case of debt securities in registered form ( registered debt securities ) or \$5,000, in the case of bearer debt securities;

the terms, if any, upon which debt securities of the series may be convertible into or exchangeable for other securities or property;

if the amount of payments on the debt securities of the series may be determined with reference to an index, formula or other method or methods and the method used to determine those amounts;

if the debt securities of the series will be secured by any collateral and, if so, a general description of the collateral and of some of the terms of any related security, pledge or other agreements;

any listing of the debt securities on any securities exchange; and

any other terms of the debt securities of the series (whether or not such other terms are consistent or inconsistent with any other terms of the indenture).

As used in this prospectus and any prospectus supplement relating to the offering of debt securities of any series, references to the principal of and premium, if any, and interest, if any, on the debt securities of the series include the payment of Additional Amounts, if any, required by the debt securities of the series to be paid in that context.

We may issue debt securities at a discount from, or at a premium to, their stated principal amount. A prospectus supplement may describe U.S. federal income tax considerations and other special considerations applicable to a debt security issued with original issue discount or at a premium.

If the principal of, premium, if any, or interest, if any, with regard to any series of debt securities is payable in a foreign currency, then in the prospectus supplement relating to those debt securities, we will describe any restrictions on currency conversions, tax considerations or other material restrictions with respect to that issue of debt securities.

The terms of the debt securities of any series may differ from the terms of the debt securities of any other series, and the terms of particular debt securities within any series may differ from each other. Unless otherwise expressly provided in the prospectus supplement relating to any series of debt securities, we may, without the consent of the holders of the debt securities of any series, reopen an existing series of debt securities and issue additional debt securities of that series.

Unless otherwise described in a prospectus supplement relating to any series of debt securities and except to the limited extent set forth below under Merger, Consolidation and Transfer of Assets, the indenture does not contain any provisions that would limit our ability or the ability of any of our subsidiaries to incur indebtedness or other liabilities or that would afford holders of debt securities protection in the event of a business combination, takeover, recapitalization or highly leveraged or similar transaction involving us. Accordingly, we and our subsidiaries may in the future enter into transactions that could increase the amount of our consolidated indebtedness and other liabilities or otherwise adversely affect our capital structure or credit rating without the consent of the holders of the debt securities of any series.



**Registration, Transfer and Payment**

Unless otherwise indicated in the applicable prospectus supplement, each series of debt securities will be issued in registered form only, without coupons. The indenture, however, provides that we may also issue a series of debt securities in bearer form only, or in both registered and bearer form.

Unless otherwise indicated in the applicable prospectus supplement, registered debt securities will be issued in denominations of \$1,000 or any integral multiples of \$1,000, and bearer debt securities will be issued in denominations of \$5,000.

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Unless otherwise indicated in the applicable prospectus supplement, the debt securities will be payable and may be surrendered for registration of transfer or exchange and, if applicable, for conversion into or exchange for other securities or property, at an office or agency maintained by us in the United States. However, we, at our option, may make payments of interest on any registered debt security by check mailed to the address of the person entitled to receive that payment or by wire transfer to an account maintained by the payee with a bank located in the United States. Unless otherwise indicated in the applicable prospectus supplement, no service charge shall be made for any registration of transfer or exchange, redemption or repayment of debt securities, or for any conversion or exchange of debt securities for other securities or property, but we may require payment of a sum sufficient to cover any tax or other governmental charge that may be imposed in connection with that transaction.

Unless otherwise indicated in the applicable prospectus supplement, payment of principal, premium, if any, and interest, if any, on bearer debt securities will be made, subject to any applicable laws and regulations, at an office or agency outside the United States. Unless otherwise indicated in the applicable prospectus supplement, payment of interest due on bearer debt securities on any interest payment date will be made only against surrender of the coupon relating to that interest payment date. Unless otherwise indicated in the applicable prospectus supplement, no payment of principal, premium, if any, or interest, if any, with respect to any bearer debt security will be made at any office or agency in the United States or by check mailed to any address in the United States or by wire transfer to an account maintained with a bank located in the United States. However, if any bearer debt securities are payable in U.S. dollars, payments on those bearer securities may be made at the corporate trust office of the relevant trustee or at any office or agency designated by us in the United States if, but only if, payment of the full amount due on the bearer debt securities for principal, premium, if any, or interest, if any, at all offices outside of the United States maintained for that purpose by us is illegal or effectively precluded by exchange controls or similar restrictions.

Unless otherwise indicated in the applicable prospectus supplement, we will not be required to:

issue, register the transfer of or exchange debt securities of any series during a period beginning at the opening of business 15 days before any selection of debt securities of that series of like tenor and terms to be redeemed and ending at the close of business on the day of that selection;

register the transfer of or exchange any registered debt security, or portion of any registered debt security, selected for redemption, except the unredeemed portion of any registered debt security being redeemed in part;

exchange any bearer debt security selected for redemption, except to exchange a bearer debt security for a registered debt security of that series of like tenor and terms that is simultaneously surrendered for redemption; or

issue, register the transfer of or exchange a debt security that has been surrendered for repayment at the option of the holder, except the portion, if any, of the debt security not to be repaid.

## **Book-Entry Debt Securities**

The securities depository will be The Depository Trust Company, New York, NY, known as DTC, unless otherwise identified in the prospectus supplement relating to the securities. If DTC is the depository for an issuance of securities,

the issuance will be issued as fully-registered securities registered in the name of Cede & Co. (DTC's partnership nominee) or such other name as may be requested by an authorized representative of DTC. One fully registered security certificate will be issued for each issue of securities, each in the aggregate principal amount of such issue, and will be deposited with DTC. If, however, the aggregate amount of any issue exceeds \$500 million, one certificate will be issued with respect to each \$500 million of issue and an additional certificate will be issued with respect to any remaining amount of such issue.

DTC has advised us that it is a limited-purpose trust company organized under the New York Banking Law, a banking organization within the meaning of the New York Banking Law, a member of the Federal Reserve

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System, a clearing corporation within the meaning of the New York Uniform Commercial Code, and a clearing agency registered under Section 17A of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934. DTC holds and provides asset servicing for issues of U.S. and non-U.S. equity issues, corporate and municipal debt issues, and money market instruments that its direct participants deposit with DTC. Direct participants include both U.S. and non-U.S. 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 both U.S. and non-U.S. securities brokers and dealers, banks, trust companies, and clearing corporations that clear through or maintain a custodial relationship with a direct participant, either directly or indirectly ( indirect participants ).

Purchases of the securities under the DTC system must be made by or through direct participants, which will receive a credit for the securities on DTC's records. The ownership interest of each actual purchaser of each security, the beneficial owner, is in turn to be recorded on the direct and indirect participants' records. Beneficial owners will not receive written confirmation from DTC of their purchase. A beneficial owner, however, is expected to receive written confirmations providing details of the transaction, as well as periodic statements of its holdings, from the direct or indirect participant through which the beneficial owner entered into the transaction. Transfers of ownership interests in the securities are to be accomplished by entries made on the books of direct and indirect participants acting on behalf of beneficial owners. Beneficial owners will not receive certificates representing their ownership interests in the securities, except if the use of the book-entry system for the securities is discontinued. The deposit of global securities with DTC and their registration in the name of Cede & Co. or other nominee do not effect any change in beneficial ownership. DTC has no knowledge of the actual beneficial owners of the global securities; DTC's records reflect only the identity of the direct participants to whose accounts global securities are credited, which may or may not be the beneficial owners. The direct participants and indirect participants will remain responsible for keeping account of their holdings on behalf of their customers.

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.

To the extent any issuance of securities is redeemable, we will send redemption notices to DTC. If less than all of the securities within an issue are being redeemed, DTC's practice is to determine by lot the amount of the interest of each direct participant in such issue to be redeemed. The applicable prospectus supplement for an issuance of securities will indicate whether such issue is redeemable.

None of DTC, Cede & Co., or any other DTC nominee will consent or vote with respect to the securities unless authorized by a direct participant in accordance with DTC's MMI procedures. Under its usual procedures, DTC mails 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 to whose accounts the securities are credited on the record date (identified in a listing attached to the omnibus proxy).

A beneficial owner must give any required notice of its election to have its securities repurchased, through the participant through which it holds its beneficial interest in the security, to the applicable trustee or tender agent. The beneficial owner shall effect delivery of its securities by causing the direct participant to transfer its interest in the securities on DTC's records. The requirement for physical delivery of securities in connection with an optional tender or a mandatory purchase will be deemed satisfied when the ownership rights in the securities are transferred by the direct participant on DTC's records and followed by a book-entry credit of tendered securities to the applicable trustee or agent's DTC account.

Redemption proceeds, distributions, and dividend payments on the global securities will be made to Cede & Co., or such other nominee as may be requested by an authorized representative of DTC. DTC's practice is to credit direct participants' accounts, upon DTC's receipt of funds and corresponding detail information from the

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issuer or agent, on the payable date in accordance with their respective holdings shown on DTC's records. Payments by participants to beneficial owners will be governed by standing instructions and customary practices, as in the case of securities held for the accounts of customers in bearer form or registered in street name. These payments will be the responsibility of such participant and not DTC, Chimera or any agent thereof, subject to any statutory or regulatory requirements as may be in effect from time to time. Payment of redemption proceeds, distributions, and dividend payments to Cede & Co. (or such other nominee as may be requested by an authorized representative of DTC) will be the responsibility of Chimera or its respective agent. Disbursement of such payments to direct participants will be the responsibility of DTC, and disbursement of such payments to beneficial owners will be the responsibility of direct participants and indirect participants. None of Chimera, any trustee or agent, or the registrar for the securities will have any responsibility or liability for any aspect of the records relating to or payments made on account of beneficial ownership interests of the global security or global securities for any series of securities or for maintaining, supervising or reviewing any records relating to such beneficial interests.

DTC may discontinue providing its services as depository with respect to any securities at any time by giving reasonable notice to issuer or its agent. Under such circumstances, in the event that a successor depository is not obtained, security certificates will be printed and delivered to DTC. In addition, an issuer may decide to discontinue use of the system of book-entry-only transfers through DTC (or a successor securities depository). In that event, security certificates are required to be printed and delivered.

If so stated in the relevant prospectus supplement, beneficial owners may elect to hold interests in the securities through either Clearstream Banking S.A., known as Clearstream, Luxembourg, or through Euroclear Bank S.A./N.V., as operator of the Euroclear System, or Euroclear (in Europe), either directly if they are participants of such systems or indirectly through organizations that are participants in such systems. Clearstream, Luxembourg and Euroclear will hold interests on behalf of their participants through customers' securities accounts in Clearstream, Luxembourg's and Euroclear's names on the books of their U.S. depositories, which in turn will hold such interests in customers' securities accounts in the U.S. depositories' names on the books of DTC.

Euroclear and Clearstream, Luxembourg each hold securities for their customers and facilitate the clearance and settlement of securities transactions by electronic book-entry transfer between their respective account holders (each such account holder, a participant and collectively, the participants). Euroclear and Clearstream, Luxembourg provide various services including safekeeping, administration, clearance and settlement of internationally traded securities and securities lending and borrowing. Euroclear and Clearstream, Luxembourg also deal with domestic securities markets in several countries through established depository and custodial relationships. Euroclear and Clearstream, Luxembourg have established an electronic bridge between their two systems across which their respective participants may settle trades with each other. Euroclear is incorporated under the laws of Belgium and Clearstream, Luxembourg is incorporated under the laws of Luxembourg.

Euroclear and Clearstream, Luxembourg customers are world-wide financial institutions, including underwriters, securities brokers and dealers, banks, trust companies, and clearing corporations. Indirect access to Euroclear and Clearstream, Luxembourg is available to other institutions that clear through or maintain a custodial relationship with a participant of either system. The address of Euroclear is Euroclear Bank S.A./N.V., 1 Boulevard du Roi Albert II, B-1210 Brussels, and the address of Clearstream, Luxembourg is Clearstream Banking, 42 Avenue JF Kennedy, L-1855, Luxembourg.

If DTC is the depository for a global security, Euroclear and Clearstream, Luxembourg may hold interests in the global security as participants in DTC.

The laws of some jurisdictions may require that purchasers of securities take physical delivery of those securities in definitive form. Accordingly, the ability to transfer interests in the securities represented by a global security to those persons may be limited. In addition, because DTC can act only on behalf of its participants, who

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in turn act on behalf of persons who hold interests through participants, the ability of a person having an interest in securities represented by a global security to pledge or transfer such interest to persons or entities that do not participate in DTC's system, or otherwise to take actions in respect of such interest, may be affected by the lack of a physical definitive security in respect of such interest.

Neither we nor the principal paying agent will have any responsibility or liability for any aspect of the records relating to or payments made on account of securities by DTC, Clearstream, Luxembourg, or Euroclear, or for maintaining, supervising or reviewing any records of those organizations relating to the securities.

## **Redemption and Repurchase**

The debt securities of any series may be redeemable at our option or may be subject to mandatory redemption by us as required by a sinking fund or otherwise. In addition, the debt securities of any series may be subject to repurchase or repayment by us at the option of the holders. The applicable prospectus supplement will describe the terms, the times and the prices regarding any optional or mandatory redemption by us or any repurchase or repayment at the option of the holders of any series of debt securities, if any.

## **Conversion and Exchange**

The terms, if any, on which debt securities of any series are convertible into or exchangeable for our common shares or any other securities or property will be set forth in the applicable prospectus supplement. Such terms may include provisions for conversion or exchange, either mandatory, at the option of the holders or at our option. Unless otherwise expressly stated in the applicable prospectus supplement or the context otherwise requires, references in this prospectus and any prospectus supplement to the conversion or exchange of debt securities of any series for other securities or property shall be deemed not to refer to or include any exchange of any debt securities of a series for other debt securities of the same series.

## **Secured Debt Securities**

The debt securities of any series may be secured by collateral. The applicable prospectus supplement will describe any such collateral and the terms of such secured debt securities.

## **Merger, Consolidation and Transfer of Assets**

The indenture provides that we will not, in any transaction or series of related transactions, consolidate with, or sell, lease or convey all or substantially all of our property and assets to, or merge with or into, any person unless:

either (1) we shall be the continuing person (in the case of a merger) or (2) the successor person (if other than us) formed by or resulting from the consolidation or merger or which shall have received the transfer of assets shall be an entity organized and existing under the laws of the United States, any state thereof or the District of Columbia and shall expressly assume the due and punctual payment of the principal of, premium, if any, and interest, if any, on all the debt securities outstanding under the indenture and the due and punctual performance and observance of all covenants and conditions in such outstanding debt securities and the indenture to be performed or satisfied by us (including, without limitation, the obligation to convert or exchange any debt securities that are convertible into or exchangeable for other securities or property in accordance with the provisions of such debt securities and the indenture) by a supplemental indenture



reasonably satisfactory in form to the trustee;

immediately after giving effect to the transaction described above, no Event of Default under the indenture, and no event which, after notice or lapse of time or both, would become an Event of Default under the indenture, shall have occurred and be continuing; and

the trustee shall have received the officers' certificate and opinion of counsel called for by the indenture.

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In the case of any such consolidation, sale, lease, conveyance or merger in which we are not the continuing entity and upon execution and delivery by the successor person of the supplemental indenture described above, such successor person shall succeed to, and be substituted for, us and may exercise every right and power of ours under the indenture with the same effect as if such successor person had been named as us therein, and we shall be automatically released and discharged from all obligations and covenants under the indenture and the debt securities issued under that indenture.

## **Events of Default**

Unless otherwise specified in the applicable prospectus supplement, an Event of Default with respect to the debt securities of any series is defined in the indenture as being:

1. default in payment of any interest, if any, on, or any Additional Amounts, if any, payable in respect of any interest, if any, on, any of the debt securities of that series when due, and continuance of such default for a period of 30 days;
2. default in payment of any principal of or premium, if any, on, or any Additional Amounts, if any, payable in respect of any principal of or premium, if any, on, any of the debt securities of that series when due (whether at maturity, upon redemption, upon repayment or repurchase at the option of the holder or otherwise and whether payable in cash or in our common shares or other securities or property);
3. default in the deposit of any sinking fund payment or payment under any analogous provision when due with respect to any of the debt securities of that series;
4. default in the delivery when due of any securities, cash or other property (including, without limitation, any of our common shares) when required to be delivered upon conversion of any convertible debt security of that series or upon the exchange of any debt security of that series which is exchangeable for our common shares or other securities or property (other than an exchange of debt securities of that series for other debt securities of the same series);
5. default in the performance, or breach, of any other covenant or warranty applicable to us in the indenture or in any debt security of that series other than a covenant or warranty included in the indenture solely for the benefit of a series of debt securities other than that series, and continuance of that default or breach (without that default or breach having been cured or waived in accordance with the indenture) for a period of 60 days after notice to us by the trustee or the holders of not less than 25% in aggregate principal amount of the debt securities of that series then outstanding;
6. default after the expiration of any applicable grace period in the payment of principal when due, or resulting in acceleration of, other indebtedness (other than Non-recourse Debt, as defined below) of us or any Significant Subsidiary of ours for borrowed money where the aggregate principal amount with respect to which the default or acceleration has occurred exceeds \$60 million and such

indebtedness has not been discharged, or such default in payment or acceleration has not been cured or rescinded, prior to written notice of acceleration of the debt securities of that series;

7. failure by us or any of our Subsidiaries to pay final judgments or decrees entered by a court or courts of competent jurisdiction aggregating in excess of \$60 million, which judgments are not paid, discharged or stayed for a period of 30 calendar days after such judgments become final and non-appealable;
8. specified events of bankruptcy, insolvency or reorganization with respect to us or any Significant Subsidiary of ours; or
9. any other Event of Default established for the debt securities of that series.

No Event of Default with respect to any particular series of debt securities necessarily constitutes an Event of Default with respect to any other series of debt securities. The indenture provides that, within 90 days after the

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occurrence of any default with respect to the debt securities of any series, the trustee will mail to all holders of the debt securities of that series notice of that default if known to the trustee, unless that default has been cured or waived. However, the indenture provides that the trustee may withhold notice of a default with respect to the debt securities of that series, except a default in payment of principal, premium, if any, interest, if any, Additional Amounts, if any, or sinking fund payments, if any, if the trustee considers it in the best interests of the holders to do so. As used in this paragraph, the term **default** means any event which is, or after notice or lapse of time or both would become, an Event of Default with respect to the debt securities of any series.

The indenture provides that if an Event of Default (other than an Event of Default specified in clause (8) of the second preceding paragraph with respect to us) occurs and is continuing with respect to any series of debt securities, either the trustee or the holders of at least 25% in principal amount of the debt securities of that series then outstanding may declare the principal of, or if debt securities of that series are original issue discount securities, such lesser amount as may be specified in the terms of that series of debt securities, and accrued and unpaid interest, if any, on all the debt securities of that series to be due and payable immediately. The indenture also provides that if an Event of Default specified in clause (8) of the second preceding paragraph with respect to us occurs with respect to any series of debt securities, then the principal of, or if debt securities of that series are original issue discount securities, such lesser amount as may be specified in the terms of that series of debt securities, and accrued and unpaid interest, if any, on all the debt securities of that series will automatically become and be immediately due and payable without any declaration or other action on the part of the trustee or any holder of the debt securities of that series. However, upon specified conditions, the holders of a majority in principal amount of the debt securities of a series then outstanding may rescind and annul an acceleration of the debt securities of that series and its consequences. For purposes of clarity, references to an Event of Default specified in clause (8) of the second preceding paragraph with respect to us shall not include any Event of Default specified in clause (8) of the second preceding paragraph with respect to any Significant Subsidiary of ours.

Subject to the provisions of the Trust Indenture Act of 1939 requiring the trustee, during the continuance of an Event of Default under the indenture, to act with the requisite standard of care, the trustee is under no obligation to exercise any of its rights or powers under the indenture at the request or direction of any of the holders of debt securities of any series unless those holders have offered the trustee indemnity reasonably satisfactory to the trustee against the costs, fees and expenses and liabilities that might be incurred in compliance with such request or direction. Subject to the foregoing, holders of a majority in principal amount of the outstanding debt securities of any series issued under the indenture have the right to direct the time, method and place of conducting any proceeding for any remedy available to the trustee under the indenture with respect to that series. The indenture requires the annual filing by us with the trustee of a certificate that states whether or not we are in default under the terms of the indenture.

No holder of any debt securities of any series shall have any right to institute any proceeding, judicial or otherwise, with respect to the indenture, or for the appointment of a receiver or trustee, or for any other remedy under the indenture, unless

such holder has previously given written notice to the trustee of a continuing Event of Default with respect to the debt securities of such series;

the holders of not less than 25% in aggregate principal amount of the outstanding debt securities of such series shall have made written request to the trustee to institute proceedings in respect of such Event of Default in its own name as trustee under the indenture;

such holder or holders have offered to the trustee indemnity reasonably satisfactory to the trustee against the costs, fees and expenses and liabilities that might be incurred in compliance with such request;

the trustee for 60 days after its receipt of such notice, request and offer of indemnity has failed to institute any such proceeding; 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 outstanding debt securities of such series.

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Notwithstanding any other provision of the indenture, the holder of a debt security will have the right, which is absolute and unconditional, to receive payment of the principal of and premium, if any, and interest, if any, on that debt security on the respective due dates for those payments and, in the case of any debt security that is convertible into or exchangeable for other securities or property, to convert or exchange, as the case may be, that debt security in accordance with its terms, and to institute suit for the enforcement of those payments and any right to effect such conversion or exchange, and this right shall not be impaired without the consent of the holder.

## **Modification, Waivers and Meetings**

The indenture permits us and the trustee, with the consent of the holders of a majority in principal amount of the outstanding debt securities of each series issued under the indenture and affected by a modification or amendment, to modify or amend any of the provisions of the indenture or of the debt securities of the applicable series or the rights of the holders of the debt securities of that series under the indenture. However, the consent of the holder of each debt security affected will be required for any modification or amendment that, among other things:

changes the stated maturity of the principal of, or premium, if any, or any installment of interest, if any, on or any Additional Amounts, if any, with respect to any debt securities issued under the indenture;

reduces the principal of or any premium on any debt securities or reduce the rate of interest on any debt securities or reduce the price payable upon the redemption of any debt security, whether such redemption is mandatory or at our option, or upon the repurchase of any debt security at the option of the holder, or reduce any Additional Amounts with respect to any debt securities, or change our obligation to pay Additional Amounts;

reduces the amount of principal of any original issue discount securities that would be due and payable upon an acceleration of the maturity thereof;

adversely affects any right of repayment or repurchase of any debt securities at the option of any holder;

changes any place where or the currency in which debt securities are payable;

impairs the holder's right to institute suit to enforce the payment of any debt securities on or after their stated maturity or, in the case of any debt security that is convertible into or exchangeable for other securities or property, to institute suit to enforce the right to convert or exchange that debt security in accordance with its terms;

makes any change that adversely affects the right, if any, to convert or exchange any debt securities for other securities or property;

reduces the percentage of debt securities of any series issued under the indenture whose holders must consent to any modification or amendment or any waiver of compliance with specific provisions of such indenture or specified defaults under the indenture and their consequences; or

reduces the requirements for a quorum or voting at a meeting of holders of the applicable debt securities. The indenture also contains provisions permitting us and the trustee, without the consent of the holders of any debt securities issued under the indenture, to modify or amend the indenture, among other things:

to evidence the succession of another person to us and the assumption by that successor of our covenants contained in the indenture and in the debt securities;

to add to our covenants for the benefit of the holders of all or any series of debt securities issued under the indenture or to surrender any right or power conferred upon us with respect to all or any series of debt securities issued under the indenture;

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to add to or change any provisions of the indenture to facilitate the issuance of bearer securities;

to establish the form or terms of debt securities of any series and any related coupons, including, without limitation, conversion and exchange provisions applicable to debt securities that are convertible into or exchangeable for other securities or property, and to establish any provisions with respect to any security or other collateral for such debt securities, and to make any deletions from or additions or changes to the indenture in connection with any of the matters referred to in this bullet point so long as those deletions, additions and changes are not applicable to any other series of debt securities then outstanding;

to evidence and provide for the acceptance of the appointment of a successor trustee in respect of the debt securities of one or more series;

to cure any ambiguity or correct or supplement any provision in such indenture which may be defective or inconsistent with other provisions in the indenture, or to make any other provisions with respect to matters or questions arising under the indenture, which shall not adversely affect the interests of the holders of the debt securities of any series then outstanding in any material respect;

to add any additional Events of Default with respect to all or any series of debt securities;

to supplement any of the provisions of the indenture to permit or facilitate defeasance, covenant defeasance and/or satisfaction and discharge of any series of debt securities, provided that such action shall not adversely affect the interest of any holder of a debt security of such series or any other debt security in any material respect;

to secure or, if applicable, to provide additional security for all or any debt securities issued under the indenture and to provide for any and all matters relating thereto, and to provide for the release of any collateral as security for all or any debt securities in accordance with the terms of the indenture;

to add to or change or eliminate any provision of the indenture as is necessary or desirable in accordance with any amendment to the Trust Indenture Act;

to make any change to the indenture, or any supplemental indenture, or any debt securities to conform the terms thereof to any provision of the description of a series of any debt securities in any prospectus (including this prospectus), prospectus supplement, offering memorandum or similar offering document used in connection with the initial offering or sale of any debt securities to the extent that such provision in such description was intended to be a substantially verbatim recitation of a provision of the indenture or debt securities;



in the case of any series of debt securities which are convertible into or exchangeable for our common shares or other securities or property, to provide for the conversion or exchange rights of those debt securities in the event of any reclassification or change of our common shares or any of our other securities into which such debt securities are convertible or for which such debt securities are exchangeable or any similar transaction if expressly required by the terms of that series of debt securities; or

to amend or supplement any provision contained in the indenture or in any debt securities, provided that such amendment or supplement does not apply to any outstanding debt securities issued prior to the date of such supplemental indenture and entitled to the benefits of such provisions.

The holders of a majority in aggregate principal amount of the outstanding debt securities of any series may waive our compliance with the provisions described above under **Merger, Consolidation and Transfer of Assets** and certain other provisions of the indenture and, if specified in the prospectus supplement relating to such series of debt securities, any additional covenants applicable to the debt securities of such series. The holders of a majority in aggregate principal amount of the outstanding debt securities of any series may, on behalf of all holders of debt securities of that series, waive any past default under the indenture with respect to debt securities of that series and its consequences, except a default in the payment of the principal of, or

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premium, if any, or interest, if any, on debt securities of that series or, in the case of any debt securities that are convertible into or exchangeable for other securities or property, a default in any such conversion or exchange, or a default in respect of a covenant or provision that cannot be modified or amended without the consent of the holder of each outstanding debt security of the affected series.

The indenture contains provisions for convening meetings of the holders of a series of debt securities if (and only if) debt securities of such series are issued or issuable, in whole or in part, in the form of bearer debt securities. A meeting may be called at any time by the trustee, and also upon our request or the request of holders of at least 33 1/3% in principal amount of the outstanding debt securities of a series. Notice of a meeting must be given in accordance with the provisions of the indenture. Except for any consent which must be given by the holder of each outstanding debt security affected in the manner described above, any resolution presented at a meeting or adjourned meeting duly reconvened at which a quorum, as described below, is present may be adopted by the affirmative vote of the holders of a majority in principal amount of the outstanding debt securities of that series. However, any resolution with respect to any request, demand, authorization, direction, notice, consent, waiver or other action which the indenture provides may be made, given or taken by the holders of a specified percentage, which is less or more than a majority, in principal amount of the outstanding debt securities of a series may be adopted at a meeting or adjourned meeting duly reconvened at which a quorum is present by the affirmative vote of the holders of that specified percentage in principal amount of the outstanding debt securities of that series. Any resolution passed or decision taken at any meeting of holders of debt securities of any series duly held in accordance with the indenture will be binding on all holders of debt securities of that series and the related coupons, if any. The quorum at any meeting called to adopt a resolution, and at any reconvened meeting, will be persons entitled to vote a majority in principal amount of the outstanding debt securities of a series, or, if any action is to be taken at a meeting with respect to any request, demand, authorization, direction, notice, consent, waiver or other action which the indenture provides may be given by holders of a greater percentage in principal amount of outstanding debt securities of a series, the persons entitled to vote at such greater percentage in principal amount of the outstanding debt securities of such series.

**Discharge, Defeasance and Covenant Defeasance**

Unless otherwise provided in the applicable prospectus supplement, upon our direction, the indenture shall cease to be of further effect with respect to any series of debt securities issued under the indenture specified by us, subject to the survival of specified provisions of the indenture (including the obligation to pay Additional Amounts to the extent described below and the obligation, if applicable, to exchange or convert debt securities of that series into other securities or property in accordance with their terms) when:

either

- (1) all outstanding debt securities of that series and, in the case of bearer securities, all related coupons, have been delivered to the trustee for cancellation, subject to exceptions, or
- (2) all debt securities of that series and, if applicable, any related coupons have become due and payable or will become due and payable at their stated maturity within one year or are to be called for redemption within one year and we have deposited with the trustee, in trust, funds in U.S. dollars or in the foreign currency in which the debt securities of that series are payable in an amount sufficient to pay the entire indebtedness on the debt securities of that series in respect of principal, premium, if any, and interest,

if any (and, to the extent that (x) the debt securities of that series provide for the payment of Additional Amounts upon the occurrence of specified events of taxation, assessment or governmental charge with respect to payments on the debt securities and (y) the amount of any Additional Amounts which are or will be payable is at the time of deposit reasonably determinable by us, in the exercise of our sole and absolute discretion, those Additional Amounts) to the date of such deposit, if the debt securities of that series have become due and payable, or to the maturity or redemption date of the debt securities of that series, as the case may be;

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we have paid all other sums payable under the indenture with respect to the debt securities of that series; and

the trustee has received an officers certificate and an opinion of counsel called for by the indenture. Unless otherwise provided in the applicable prospectus supplement, we may elect with respect to any series of debt securities either:

to defease and be discharged from all of our obligations with respect to that series of debt securities ( defeasance ), except for:

- (1) the obligation to pay Additional Amounts, if any, upon the occurrence of specified events of taxation, assessment or governmental charge with respect to payments on that series of debt securities to the extent (and only to the extent) that those Additional Amounts exceed the amount deposited in respect of those Additional Amounts as provided below,
- (2) the obligation, if applicable, to exchange or convert debt securities of that series into other securities or property in accordance with their terms, and
- (3) certain other limited obligations.

to be released from our obligations with respect to the debt securities of such series under such covenants as may be specified in the applicable prospectus supplement, and any omission to comply with those obligations shall not constitute a default or an Event of Default with respect to that series of debt securities ( covenant defeasance ), in either case upon the irrevocable deposit with the trustee, or other qualifying trustee, in trust for that purpose, of an amount in U.S. dollars or in the foreign currency in which those debt securities are payable at stated maturity or, if applicable, upon redemption, and/or Government Obligations which through the payment of principal and interest in accordance with their terms will provide money, in an amount sufficient to pay the principal of and any premium and any interest on (and, to the extent that (x) the debt securities of that series provide for the payment of Additional Amounts and (y) the amount of the Additional Amounts which are or will be payable is at the time of deposit reasonably determinable by us, in the exercise of our sole and absolute discretion, the Additional Amounts with respect to) that series of debt securities, and any mandatory sinking fund or analogous payments on that series of debt securities, on the due dates for those payments.

The defeasance or covenant defeasance described above shall only be effective if, among other things:

it shall not result in a breach or violation of, or constitute a default under, the indenture;

in the case of defeasance, we shall have delivered to the trustee an opinion of independent counsel reasonably acceptable to the trustee confirming that (A) we have received from or there has been published by the Internal Revenue Service a ruling or (B) since the date of the indenture there has been a change in applicable U.S. federal income tax law, in either case to the effect that, and based on this ruling or change the opinion of counsel shall confirm that, the holders and beneficial owners of the debt securities of the applicable series will not recognize income, gain or loss for U.S. federal income tax purposes as a result of the defeasance and will be subject to U.S. federal income tax on the same amounts, in the same manner and at the same times as would have been the case if the defeasance had not occurred;

in the case of defeasance, we shall 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;

in the case of covenant defeasance, we shall have delivered to the trustee an opinion of independent counsel reasonably acceptable to the trustee to the effect that the holders and beneficial owners of the debt securities of the applicable series will not recognize income, gain or loss for U.S. federal income tax purposes as a result of the covenant defeasance and will be subject to U.S. federal income tax on

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the same amounts, in the same manner and at the same times as would have been the case if the covenant defeasance had not occurred;

if the cash and Government Obligations deposited are sufficient to pay the outstanding debt securities of that series provided those debt securities are redeemed on a particular redemption date, we shall have given the trustee irrevocable instructions to redeem those debt securities on that date; and

no Event of Default or event which with notice or lapse of time or both would become an Event of Default with respect to debt securities of that series shall have occurred and be continuing on the date of the deposit into trust; and, solely in the case of defeasance, no Event of Default arising from specified events of bankruptcy, insolvency or reorganization with respect to us or event which with notice or lapse of time or both would become such an Event of Default with respect to us shall have occurred and be continuing during the period through and including the 91st day after the date of the deposit into trust.

The applicable prospectus supplement may further describe the provisions, if any, permitting or restricting satisfaction and discharge, defeasance or covenant defeasance with respect to the debt securities of a particular series.

## **Definitions**

As used in the indenture, the following terms have the meanings specified below:

The term **Corporation** includes corporations, partnerships, associations, limited liability companies and other companies and business trusts. The term **corporation** means a corporation and does not include partnerships, associations, limited liability companies or other companies or business trusts.

**Non-recourse Debt** means any indebtedness the terms of which provide that the claim for repayment of such indebtedness by the holder thereof is limited solely to a claim against the property or assets (including, without limitation, securities or interests in securities) that secure such indebtedness; provided, however, that any obligations or liabilities of the debtor or obligor or any other person solely for indemnities, covenants or breaches of warranties, representations or covenants or similar matters in respect of any indebtedness will not prevent such indebtedness from constituting Non-recourse Debt.

**Person** or **person** means any individual, Corporation, joint venture, joint-stock company, trust, unincorporated organization or government or any agency or political subdivision thereof.

**Significant Subsidiary** means, as of any date of determination, a Subsidiary of ours that would constitute a significant subsidiary as such term is defined under Rule 1-02(w) of Regulation S-X of the Securities and Exchange Commission as in effect on the date of the indenture.

**Subsidiary** means, with respect to any Person, (i) any corporation, association or other business entity of which more than 50% of the total voting power of shares of capital stock or other equity interests entitled (without regard to the occurrence of any contingency) to vote in the election of directors, managers or trustees thereof is at the time owned or controlled, directly or indirectly, by such Person or one or more of the other Subsidiaries of such Person (or a combination thereof) and (ii) any partnership (a) the sole general partner or managing general partner of which is such Person or a Subsidiary of such Person or (b) the only general partners of which are such Person or one or more Subsidiaries of such Person (or any combination thereof).

**Governing Law**

The indenture and the debt securities will be governed by, and construed in accordance with, the laws of the State of New York, without regard to conflicts of laws principles thereof.

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**Regarding the Trustees**

The Trust Indenture Act of 1939 limits the rights of a trustee, if the trustee becomes a creditor of us, to obtain payment of claims or to realize on property received by it in respect of those claims, as security or otherwise. Any trustee is permitted to engage in other transactions with us and our subsidiaries from time to time. However, if a trustee acquires any conflicting interest it must eliminate the conflict upon the occurrence of an Event of Default under the applicable indenture or resign as trustee.



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**RESTRICTIONS ON OWNERSHIP AND TRANSFER**

To qualify as a REIT under the Internal Revenue Code for each taxable year beginning after December 31, 2007, our shares of capital stock must be beneficially owned by 100 or more persons during at least 335 days of a taxable year of 12 months or during a proportionate part of a shorter taxable year. Also, beginning after December 31, 2007, no more than 50% of the value of our outstanding shares of capital stock may be owned, directly or constructively, by five or fewer individuals (as defined in the Internal Revenue Code to include certain entities) during the second half of any calendar year.

Our charter, subject to certain exceptions, contains restrictions on the number of shares of our capital stock that a person may own. Our charter provides that (subject to certain exceptions described below) no person may own, or be deemed to own by the attribution provisions of the Internal Revenue Code, more than 9.8% in value or in number of shares, whichever is more restrictive, of any class or series of our capital stock.

Our charter also prohibits any person from (i) beneficially or constructively owning shares of our capital stock that would result in our being closely held under Section 856(h) of the Internal Revenue Code or otherwise cause us to fail to qualify as a REIT and (ii) transferring shares of our capital stock if such transfer would result in our capital stock being owned by fewer than 100 persons. Any person who acquires or attempts or intends to acquire beneficial or constructive ownership of shares of our capital stock that will or may violate any of the foregoing restrictions on transferability and ownership, or who is the intended transferee of shares of our stock that are transferred to the trust (as described below), will be required to give notice immediately to us and provide us with such other information as we may request to determine the effect of such transfer on our status as a REIT. The foregoing restrictions on transferability and ownership will not apply if our board of directors determines that it is no longer in our best interests to attempt to qualify, or to continue to qualify, as a REIT.

Our board of directors, in its sole discretion, may exempt a person from the foregoing restrictions. The person seeking an exemption must provide to our board of directors such representations, covenants and undertakings as our board of directors may deem appropriate to conclude that granting the exemption will not cause us to lose our status as a REIT. Our board of directors may also require a ruling from the Internal Revenue Service or an opinion of counsel to determine or ensure our status as a REIT.

Any attempted transfer of our securities that, if effective, would result in a violation of the foregoing restrictions will cause the number of securities causing the violation (rounded to the nearest whole share) to be automatically transferred to a trust for the exclusive benefit of one or more charitable beneficiaries, and the proposed transferee will not acquire any rights in such securities. The automatic transfer will be deemed to be effective as of the close of business on the business day (as defined in our charter) before the date of the transfer. If, for any reason, the transfer to the trust is ineffective, our charter provides that the purported transfer in violation of the restrictions will be void *ab initio*. Shares of our stock held in the trust will be issued and outstanding shares. The proposed transferee will not benefit economically from ownership of any securities held in the trust, will have no rights to dividends and no rights to vote or other rights attributable to the shares of stock held in the trust. The trustee of the trust will have all voting rights and rights to dividends or other distributions with respect to shares held in the trust. These rights will be exercised for the exclusive benefit of the charitable beneficiary. Any dividend or other distribution paid before our discovery that shares of stock have been transferred to the trust will be paid by the recipient to the trustee upon demand. Any dividend or other distribution authorized but unpaid will be paid when due to the trustee. Any dividend or distribution paid to the trustee will be held in trust for the charitable beneficiary. Subject to Maryland law, the trustee will have the authority (i) to rescind as void any vote cast by the proposed transferee before our discovery that the shares have been transferred to the trust and (ii) to recast the vote in accordance with the desires of the trustee acting for the benefit of the charitable beneficiary. However, if we have already taken irreversible corporate action,

then the trustee will not have the authority to rescind and recast the vote.

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Within 20 days of receiving notice from us that the securities have been transferred to the trust, the trustee will sell the securities to a person designated by the trustee, whose ownership of the securities will not violate the above ownership limitations. Upon such sale, the interest of the charitable beneficiary in the securities sold will terminate and the trustee will distribute the net proceeds of the sale to the proposed transferee and to the charitable beneficiary as follows. The proposed transferee will receive the lesser of (i) the price paid by the proposed transferee for the securities or, if the proposed transferee did not give value for the securities in connection with the event causing the securities to be held in the trust (e.g., a gift, devise or other similar transaction), the market price (as defined in our charter) of the securities on the day of the event causing the securities to be held in the trust and (ii) the price received by the trustee from the sale or other disposition of the securities. The trustee may reduce the amount payable to the proposed transferee by the amount of dividends and distributions paid to the proposed transferee and owed by the proposed transferee to the trustee. Any net sale proceeds in excess of the amount payable to the proposed transferee will be paid immediately to the charitable beneficiary. If, before our discovery that the securities have been transferred to the trust, the securities are sold by the proposed transferee, then (i) the securities shall be deemed to have been sold on behalf of the trust and (ii) to the extent that the proposed transferee received an amount for the securities that exceeds the amount the proposed transferee was entitled to receive, the excess shall be paid to the trustee upon demand.

In addition, the securities held in the trust will be deemed to have been offered for sale to us, or our designee, at a price per share equal to the lesser of (i) the price per share in the transaction that resulted in the transfer to the trust (or, in the case of a devise or gift, the market price at the time of the devise or gift) and (ii) the market price on the date we, or our designee, accept the offer. We may reduce the amount payable to the proposed transferee, however, by the amount of any dividends or distributions paid to the proposed transferee on the securities and owed by the proposed transferee to the trustee. We will have the right to accept the offer until the trustee has sold the securities. Upon a sale to us, the interest of the charitable beneficiary in the securities sold will terminate and the trustee will distribute the net proceeds of the sale to the proposed transferee.

All certificates representing the securities will bear a legend referring to the restrictions described above or will state that we will furnish a full statement about certain transfer restrictions to a stockholder upon request and without charge.

Every owner of more than 5% (or such lower percentage as required by the Internal Revenue Code or the regulations promulgated thereunder) in value of all classes or series of our stock, including shares of common stock, within 30 days after the end of each taxable year, will be required to give written notice to us stating the name and address of such owner, the number of shares of each class and series of shares of our stock that the owner beneficially owns and a description of the manner in which the shares are held. Each owner shall provide to us such additional information as we may request to determine the effect, if any, of the beneficial ownership on our status as a REIT and to ensure compliance with the ownership limitations. In addition, each such owner shall upon demand be required to provide to us such information as we may request, in good faith, to determine our status as a REIT and to comply with the requirements of any taxing authority or governmental authority or to determine such compliance.

These ownership limitations could delay, defer or prevent a transaction or a change in control that might involve a premium price for the common stock or might otherwise be in your best interests.

**Table of Contents****CERTAIN PROVISIONS OF MARYLAND LAW AND OF OUR CHARTER AND BYLAWS**

*We have summarized certain terms and provisions of the Maryland General Corporation Law and our charter and bylaws. This summary is not complete and is qualified by the provisions of our charter and bylaws, and the Maryland General Corporation Law. See Where You Can Find More Information on Chimera. For restrictions on ownership and transfer of our capital stock contained in our charter, see Restrictions on Ownership and Transfer.*

**Classification of Board of Directors, Vacancies and Removal of Directors**

Our charter and by-laws, as amended, provide for a staggered Board of Directors consisting of up to 15 directors. Our charter provides that our directors shall be divided into three classes, with terms of three years each. The number of directors in each class and the expiration of each class term are as follows:

Class I	3 Directors	Expires 2017
Class II	2 Directors	Expires 2018
Class III	2 Directors	Expires 2016

At each annual meeting of our stockholders, successors of the class of directors whose term expires at that meeting will be elected for a three-year term and the directors in the other two classes will continue in office. A classified Board of Directors may delay, defer or prevent a change in control or other transaction that might involve a premium over the then prevailing market price for our common stock or other attributes that our stockholders may consider desirable. In addition, a classified Board of Directors could prevent stockholders who do not agree with the policies of our Board of Directors from replacing a majority of the Board of Directors for two years, except in the event of removal for cause.

Our by-laws, as amended, provide that any vacancy on our Board of Directors may be filled by a majority of the remaining directors. Any individual so elected director will hold office for the unexpired term of the director he or she is replacing. Our by-laws, as amended, provide that a director may be removed at any time only for cause upon the affirmative vote of at least two-thirds of the votes entitled to be cast in the election of directors, but only by a vote taken at a stockholder meeting. These provisions preclude stockholders from removing incumbent directors, except for cause and upon a substantial affirmative vote, and filling the vacancies created by such removal with their own nominees.

**Indemnification**

Our amended and restated charter obligates us to indemnify our directors and officers and to pay or reimburse expenses for them before the final disposition of a proceeding to the maximum extent permitted by Maryland law. The Corporations and Associations Article of the Annotated Code of Maryland (or the Maryland General Corporation Law) permits a corporation to indemnify its present and former directors and officers 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 (1) the act or omission of the director or officer was material to the matter giving rise to the proceeding and (a) was committed in bad faith, or (b) was the result of active and deliberate dishonesty, or (2) the director or officer actually received an improper personal benefit in money, property or services, or (3) in the case of any criminal proceeding, the director or officer had reasonable cause to believe that the act or omission was unlawful.

**Limitation of Liability**

The Maryland General Corporation Law permits the charter of a Maryland corporation to include a provision limiting the liability of its directors and officers to the corporation and its stockholders for money

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damages, except to the extent that (1) it is proved that the person actually received an improper benefit or profit in money, property or services, or (2) a judgment or other final adjudication adverse to the person is entered in a proceeding based on a finding that the person's action, or failure to act, was the result of active and deliberate dishonesty and was material to the cause of action adjudicated in the proceeding. Our amended and restated charter provides for elimination of the liability of our directors and officers to us or our stockholders for money damages to the maximum extent permitted by Maryland law from time to time.

### **Maryland Business Combination Act**

The Maryland General Corporation Law establishes special requirements for "business combinations" between a Maryland corporation and "interested stockholders" unless exemptions are applicable. An interested stockholder is any person who beneficially owns 10% or more of the voting power of our then outstanding voting stock. Among other things, the law prohibits for a period of five years a merger and other similar transactions between us and an interested stockholder unless the Board of Directors approved the transaction prior to the party becoming an interested stockholder. The five-year period runs from the most recent date on which the interested stockholder became an interested stockholder. The law also requires a supermajority stockholder vote for such transactions after the end of the five-year period. This means that the transaction must be approved by at least:

80% of the votes entitled to be cast by holders of outstanding voting shares; and

two-thirds of the votes entitled to be cast by holders of outstanding voting shares other than shares held by the interested stockholder or an affiliate of the interested stockholder with whom the business combination is to be effected.

As permitted by the Maryland General Corporation Law, we have elected not to be governed by the Maryland business combination statute. We made this election by opting out of this statute in our charter, as amended. If, however, we amend our charter to opt back in to the statute, the business combination statute could have the effect of discouraging offers to acquire us and of increasing the difficulty of consummating any such offers, even if our acquisition would be in our stockholders' best interests.

### **Maryland Control Share Acquisition Act**

Maryland law provides that "control shares" of a Maryland corporation acquired in a "control share acquisition" have no voting rights except to the extent approved by a vote of the other stockholders. Two-thirds of the shares eligible to vote must vote in favor of granting the "control shares" voting rights. Control shares are shares of stock that, taken together with all other shares of stock the acquirer previously acquired, would entitle the acquirer to exercise voting power in electing directors within one of the following ranges of voting power:

one-tenth or more, but less than one-third, of all voting power;

one-third or more, but less than a majority, of all voting power; or

a majority or more of all voting power.

Control shares do not include shares of stock the acquiring person is 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.

If a person who has made (or proposes to make) a control share acquisition satisfies certain conditions (including agreeing to pay expenses), he may compel our Board of Directors to call a special meeting of stockholders to consider the voting rights of the shares. If such a person makes no request for a meeting, we have the option to present the question at any stockholders meeting.

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If voting rights are not approved at a meeting of stockholders, then, subject to certain conditions and limitations, we may redeem any or all of the control shares (except those for which voting rights have previously been approved) for fair value. We will determine the fair value of the shares, without regard to the absence of voting rights, as of the date of either:

the last control share acquisition; or

the meeting where stockholders considered and did not approve voting rights of the control shares.

If voting rights for control shares are approved at a stockholders meeting and the acquirer becomes entitled to vote a majority of the shares of stock entitled to vote, all other stockholders may obtain rights as objecting stockholders and, thereunder, exercise appraisal rights. This means that you would be able to force us to redeem your stock for fair value. Under Maryland law, the fair value may not be less than the highest price per share paid in the control share acquisition. Furthermore, certain limitations otherwise applicable to the exercise of dissenters rights would not apply in the context of a control share acquisition. The control share acquisition statute would not apply to shares acquired in a merger, consolidation or share exchange if we were a party to the transaction. The control share acquisition statute could have the effect of discouraging offers to acquire us and of increasing the difficulty of consummating any such offers, even if our acquisition would be in our stockholders best interests.

**Transfer Agent and Registrar**

Mellon Investor Services LLC, 480 Washington Blvd., Jersey City, New Jersey 07310, is the transfer agent and registrar for our stock. Its telephone number is (800) 522-6645.



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**MATERIAL U.S. FEDERAL INCOME TAX CONSIDERATIONS**

This section summarizes the material U.S. federal income tax considerations that (i) relate to our qualification as a REIT and (ii) apply to you as an Owner (as defined in the below) of shares of our common stock. K&L Gates LLP has acted as our tax counsel, has reviewed this section and is of the opinion that the discussion contained herein fairly summarizes the U.S. federal income tax consequences that relate to our qualification as a REIT and are likely to be material to an Owner of shares of our common stock. Because this section is a summary, it does not address all aspects of taxation that may be relevant to particular Owners of our common stock in light of their personal investment or tax circumstances, or to certain types of Owners that are subject to special treatment under the U.S. federal income tax laws, such as insurance companies, tax-exempt organizations (except to the extent discussed in

Taxation of Owners Taxation of Tax-Exempt Owners below), regulated investment companies, partnerships and other pass-through entities (including entities classified as partnerships for U.S. federal income tax purposes), financial institutions or broker-dealers, and non-U.S. individuals and foreign corporations (except to the extent discussed in

Taxation of Owners Taxation of Foreign Owners below) and other persons subject to special tax rules. This section assumes that Owners will hold our common stock as a capital asset.

This section does not address the U.S. federal income tax consequences of your investment in warrants or debt securities that we may issue. The applicable prospectus supplement will describe the tax consequences of your investment in such securities.

You should be aware that in this section, when we use the term:

Code, we mean the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended;

Disqualified organization, we mean any organization described in section 860E(e)(5) of the Code, including:

- i. the United States;
- ii. any state or political subdivision of the United States;
- iii. any foreign government;
- iv. any international organization;
- v. any agency or instrumentality of any of the foregoing;
- vi. any charitable remainder trust or other tax-exempt organization, other than a farmer's cooperative described in section 521 of the Code, that is exempt both from income taxation and from taxation under the unrelated business taxable income provisions of the Code; and

vii. any rural electrical or telephone cooperative;

Domestic Owner, we mean an Owner that is a U.S. Person;

Foreign Owner, we mean an Owner that is not a U.S. Person;

IRS, we mean the Internal Revenue Service;

Owner, we mean any person having a beneficial ownership interest in shares of our common stock;

REMIC, we mean real estate mortgage investment conduit as that term is defined in Section 860D of the Code;

TMP, we mean a taxable mortgage pool as that term is defined in section 7701(i)(2) of the Code;

TRS, we mean a taxable REIT subsidiary described under Requirements for Qualification Subsidiary Entities Taxable REIT Subsidiaries below;

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U.S. Person, we mean (i) a citizen or resident of the United States; (ii) a corporation (or entity treated as a corporation for U.S. federal income tax purposes) created or organized in the United States or under the laws of the United States or of any state thereof, including, for this purpose, the District of Columbia; (iii) a partnership (or entity treated as a partnership for tax purposes) organized in the United States or under the laws of the United States or of any state thereof, including, for this purpose, the District of Columbia (unless provided otherwise by future Treasury Regulations); (iv) an estate whose income is includible in gross income for U.S. federal income tax purposes regardless of its source; or (v) a trust, if a court within the United States is able to exercise primary supervision over the administration of the trust and one or more U.S. Persons have authority to control all substantial decisions of the trust. Notwithstanding the preceding clause, to the extent provided in Treasury Regulations, certain trusts that were in existence on August 20, 1996, that were treated as U.S. Persons prior to such date, and that elect to continue to be treated as U.S. Persons, also are U.S. Persons.

The statements in this section and the opinion of K&L Gates LLP are based on current U.S. federal income tax laws. We cannot assure you that new laws, interpretations of law or court decisions, any of which may take effect retroactively, will not cause any statement in this section to be inaccurate. No assurance can be given that the IRS would not assert, or that a court would not sustain, a position contrary to any of the tax consequences described below. We have not sought and will not seek an advance ruling from the IRS regarding any matter in this prospectus.

This summary provides general information only and is not tax advice. We urge you to consult your tax advisor regarding the specific tax consequences to you of the purchase, ownership and sale of our common stock and of our election to be taxed as a REIT. Specifically, you should consult your tax advisor regarding the federal, state, local, foreign, and other tax consequences of such purchase, ownership, sale and election, and regarding potential changes in applicable tax laws.

**U.S. Federal Income Tax Considerations Relating to Our Treatment as a REIT**

We have elected to be taxed as a REIT under Sections 856 through 860 of the Code commencing with our short taxable year ending on December 31, 2007. We believe that we were organized and have operated and will continue to operate in such a manner as to qualify for taxation as a REIT under the U.S. federal income tax laws, but no assurances can be given that we will operate in a manner so as to qualify or remain qualified as a REIT. This section discusses the laws governing the U.S. federal income tax treatment of a REIT and the owners of REIT stock. These laws are highly technical and complex.

In the opinion of K&L Gates LLP, our counsel, we have qualified to be taxed as a REIT beginning with our taxable year ended on December 31, 2007, and our organization and current and proposed method of operation will enable us to continue to meet the requirements for qualification and taxation as a REIT. Investors should be aware that K&L Gates LLP's opinion is based upon customary assumptions, is conditioned upon certain representations made by us as to factual matters, including representations regarding the nature of our assets and the conduct of our business, and is not binding upon the IRS or any court.

In addition, K&L Gates LLP's opinion is based on existing U.S. federal income tax law governing qualification as a REIT, which is subject to change either prospectively or retroactively. Moreover, our qualification and taxation as a REIT depend upon our ability to meet on a continuing basis, through actual annual operating results, certain qualification tests set forth in the U.S. federal income tax laws. Those qualification tests involve the percentage of income that we earn from specified sources, the percentage of our assets that falls within specified categories, the diversity of our stock ownership, and the percentage of our earnings that we distribute. K&L Gates LLP will not review our compliance with those tests on a continuing basis. Accordingly, no assurance can be given that our actual results of operations for any particular taxable year will satisfy such requirements. For a discussion of the tax

consequences of our failure to qualify as a REIT, see Failure to Qualify.

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If we qualify as a REIT, we generally will not be subject to U.S. federal income tax on our taxable income that we currently distribute to our stockholders, but taxable income generated by our domestic TRSs, if any, will be subject to regular federal (and applicable state and local) corporate income tax. However, we will be subject to federal tax in the following circumstances:

We will pay U.S. federal income tax on our taxable income, including net capital gain, that we do not distribute to stockholders during, or within a specified time period after, the calendar year in which the income is earned.

We may be subject to the alternative minimum tax.

We will pay U.S. federal income tax at the highest corporate rate on:

net income from the sale or other disposition of property acquired through foreclosure, which we refer to as foreclosure property, that we hold primarily for sale to customers in the ordinary course of business, and

other non-qualifying income from foreclosure property.

We will pay a 100% tax on net income earned from sales or other dispositions of property, other than foreclosure property, that we hold primarily for sale to customers in the ordinary course of business.

If we fail to satisfy the 75% gross income test or the 95% gross income test, as described below under Gross Income Tests, but nonetheless continue to qualify as a REIT because we meet other requirements, we will be subject to a 100% tax on:

the greater of the amount by which we fail the 75% gross income test or the 95% gross income test, multiplied, in either case, by

a fraction intended to reflect our profitability.

If we fail to satisfy the asset tests by more than a de minimis amount, as described below under Asset Tests, as long as the failure was due to reasonable cause and not to willful neglect, we dispose of the assets or otherwise comply with such asset tests within six months after the last day of the quarter in which we identify such failure and we file a schedule with the IRS describing the assets that caused such failure, we will pay a tax equal to the greater of \$50,000 or the highest federal income tax rate applicable to U.S. corporations (currently 35%) of the net income from the non-qualifying assets during the period in which we

failed to satisfy such asset tests.

If we fail to satisfy one or more requirements for REIT qualification, other than the gross income tests and the asset tests, and such failure was due to reasonable cause and not due to willful neglect, we will be required to pay a penalty of \$50,000 for each such failure.

We may be required to pay monetary penalties to the IRS in certain circumstances, including if we fail to meet recordkeeping requirements intended to monitor our compliance with rules relating to the composition of a REIT's stockholders, as described below in Requirements for Qualification.

If we fail to distribute during a calendar year at least the sum of: (i) 85% of our REIT ordinary income for the year, (ii) 95% of our REIT capital gain net income for the year and (iii) any undistributed taxable income from earlier periods, we will pay a 4% nondeductible excise tax on the excess of the required distribution over the sum of the amount we actually distributed and any retained amounts on which income tax has been paid at the corporate level.

We may elect to retain and pay U.S. federal income tax on our net long-term capital gain. In that case, a Domestic Owner would be taxed on its proportionate share of our undistributed long-term capital gain (to the extent that we make a timely designation of such gain to the stockholder) and would receive a credit or refund for its proportionate share of the tax we paid.

We will be subject to a 100% excise tax on transactions between us and any of our TRSs that are not conducted on an arm's-length basis.

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If (a) we recognize excess inclusion income for a taxable year as a result of our ownership of a 100% equity interest in a TMP or our ownership of a REMIC residual interest and (b) one or more Disqualified Organizations is the record owner of shares of our common stock during that year, then we will be subject to tax at the highest corporate U.S. federal income tax rate on the portion of the excess inclusion income that is allocable to the Disqualified Organizations. We do not anticipate owning REMIC residual interests; we may, however, own 100% of the equity interests in one or more CDO offerings or one or more trusts formed in connection with our securitization transactions, but we intend to structure each CDO offering and each securitization transaction so that the issuing entity would not be classified as a TMP. See Taxable Mortgage Pools.

If we acquire any asset from a C corporation, or a corporation that generally is subject to full corporate-level tax, in a merger or other transaction in which we acquire a basis in the asset that is determined by reference either to the C corporation's basis in the asset or to another asset, we will pay tax at the highest corporate U.S. federal income tax rate if we recognize gain on the sale or disposition of the asset during the 5-year period after we acquire the asset. The amount of gain on which we will pay tax is the lesser of:

the amount of gain that we recognize at the time of the sale or disposition, and

the amount of gain that we would have recognized if we had sold the asset at the time we acquired it, assuming that the C corporation will not elect in lieu of this treatment to an immediate tax when the asset is acquired.

In addition, notwithstanding our qualification as a REIT, we may also have to pay certain state and local income taxes because not all states and localities treat REITs in the same manner as they are treated for U.S. federal income tax purposes. Moreover, as further described below, any domestic TRS in which we own an interest will be subject to federal, state and local corporate income tax on its taxable income. We could also be subject to tax in situations and on transactions not presently contemplated.

***Requirements for Qualification***

A REIT is a corporation, trust, or association that meets each of the following requirements:

1. It is managed by one or more trustees or directors.
2. Its beneficial ownership is evidenced by transferable shares or by transferable certificates of beneficial interest.
3. It would be taxable as a domestic corporation but for the REIT provisions of the U.S. federal income tax laws.
- 4.

It is neither a financial institution nor an insurance company subject to special provisions of the U.S. federal income tax laws.

5. At least 100 persons are beneficial owners of its shares or ownership certificates.
6. Not more than 50% in value of its outstanding shares or ownership certificates is owned, directly or indirectly, by five or fewer individuals, which the U.S. federal income tax laws define to include certain entities, during the last half of any taxable year. For purposes of this requirement, indirect ownership will be determined by applying attribution rules set out in section 544 of the Code, as modified by section 856(h) of the Code.
7. It elects to be taxed as a REIT, or has made such election for a previous taxable year, and satisfies all relevant filing and other administrative requirements that must be met to elect and maintain REIT qualification.
8. It meets certain other qualification tests, described below, regarding the nature of its income and assets.



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We must meet requirements 1 through 4 during our entire taxable year and must meet requirement 5 during at least 335 days of a taxable year of 12 months, or during a proportionate part of a taxable year of less than 12 months. If we comply with all the requirements for ascertaining the ownership of our outstanding stock in a taxable year and have no reason to know that we violated requirement 6, we will be deemed to have satisfied requirement 6 for that taxable year. For purposes of determining share ownership under requirement 6, an individual generally includes a supplemental unemployment compensation benefits plan, a private foundation, or a portion of a trust permanently set aside or used exclusively for charitable purposes. An individual generally does not include a trust that is a qualified employee pension or profit sharing trust under the U.S. federal income tax laws, however, and beneficiaries of such a trust will be treated as owning our stock in proportion to their actuarial interests in the trust for purposes of requirement 6. We believe that our shares are held with sufficient diversity of ownership to satisfy requirements 5 and 6. In addition, our charter restricts the ownership and transfer of our stock so that we should continue to satisfy these requirements.

To monitor compliance with the share ownership requirements, we generally are required to maintain records regarding the actual ownership of our shares. To do so, we must demand written statements each year from the record holders of significant percentages of our stock pursuant to which the record holders must disclose the actual owners of the shares (i.e., the persons required to include our dividends in their gross income). We must maintain a list of those persons failing or refusing to comply with this demand as part of our records. We could be subject to monetary penalties if we fail to comply with these record keeping requirements. If you fail or refuse to comply with the demands, you will be required by Treasury Regulations to submit a statement with your tax return disclosing your actual ownership of our shares and other information. In addition, we must satisfy all relevant filing and other administrative requirements that must be met to elect and maintain REIT qualification and use a calendar year for U.S. federal income tax purposes. We intend to continue to comply with these requirements.

***Subsidiary Entities******Qualified REIT Subsidiaries***

A corporation that is a qualified REIT subsidiary is not treated as a corporation separate from its parent REIT. All assets, liabilities, and items of income, deduction and credit of a qualified REIT subsidiary are treated as assets, liabilities, and items of income, deduction and credit of the REIT, including for purposes of the gross income and asset tests applicable to REITS (see *Gross Income Tests* and *Asset Tests* ). A qualified REIT subsidiary is a corporation, other than a TRS, all of the common stock of which is owned, directly or indirectly, by the REIT. Thus, in applying the requirements described herein, any qualified REIT subsidiary that we own will be ignored, and all assets, liabilities, and items of income, deduction and credit of such subsidiary will be treated as our assets, liabilities, and items of income, deduction and credit. If we own 100% of the equity interests in a CDO issuer or other securitization vehicle that is treated as a corporation for tax purposes, that CDO issuer or other securitization vehicle would be a qualified REIT subsidiary, unless we and the CDO issuer or other securitization vehicle jointly elect to treat the CDO issuer or other securitization vehicle as a TRS. It is anticipated that CDO financings we enter into will be treated as qualified REIT subsidiaries.

***Other Disregarded Entities and Partnerships***

An unincorporated domestic entity, such as a partnership, limited liability company, or trust that has a single owner generally is not treated as an entity separate from its parent for U.S. federal income tax purposes, including for purposes of the gross income and asset tests applicable to REITs. An unincorporated domestic entity with two or more owners generally is treated as a partnership for U.S. federal income tax purposes. Our proportionate share of the assets, liabilities, and items of income of any partnership, joint venture or limited liability company that is treated as a

partnership for U.S. federal income tax purposes in which we acquire an interest, directly or indirectly, will be treated as our assets and gross income for purposes of applying the various REIT qualification requirements. For purposes of the 10% value test (see Asset Tests ), our proportionate

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share is based on our proportionate interest in the equity interests and certain debt securities issued by the partnership. For all of the other asset and income tests, our proportionate share is based on our proportionate interest in the capital interests in the partnership.

If a disregarded subsidiary of ours ceases to be wholly-owned for example, if any equity interest in the subsidiary is acquired by a person other than us or another disregarded subsidiary of ours the subsidiary's separate existence would no longer be disregarded for U.S. federal income tax purposes. Instead, the subsidiary would have multiple owners and would be treated as either a partnership or a taxable corporation. Such an event could, depending on the circumstances, adversely affect our ability to satisfy the various asset and gross income requirements applicable to REITs, including the requirement that REITs generally may not own, directly or indirectly, more than 10% of the securities of another corporation. See *Asset Tests* and *Gross Income Tests*.

*Taxable REIT Subsidiaries*

A REIT is permitted to own up to 100% of the stock of one or more TRSs. A TRS is a fully taxable corporation that may earn income that would not be qualifying income if earned directly by the parent REIT. The subsidiary and the REIT must jointly elect to treat the subsidiary as a TRS. A corporation with respect to which a TRS directly or indirectly owns more than 35% of the voting power or value of the stock will automatically be treated as a TRS. We generally may not own more than 10%, as measured by voting power or value, of the securities of a corporation that is not a qualified REIT subsidiary (or another REIT) unless we and such corporation elect to treat such corporation as a TRS. Overall, no more than 25% (20% for taxable years beginning after December 31, 2017) of the value of a REIT's assets may consist of stock or securities of one or more TRSs.

The separate existence of a TRS or other taxable corporation, unlike a qualified REIT subsidiary or other disregarded subsidiary as discussed above, is not ignored for U.S. federal income tax purposes. Accordingly, a domestic TRS would generally be subject to U.S. federal corporate income tax (and applicable state and local taxes) on its earnings, which may reduce the cash flow generated by us and our subsidiaries in the aggregate and our ability to make distributions to our stockholders.

A REIT is not treated as holding the assets of a TRS or other taxable subsidiary corporation or as receiving any income that the subsidiary earns. Rather, the stock issued by the subsidiary is an asset in the hands of the REIT, and the REIT generally recognizes as income the dividends, if any, that it receives from the subsidiary. This treatment can affect the gross income and asset test calculations that apply to the REIT, as described below. Because a parent REIT does not include the assets and income of such subsidiary corporations in determining the parent's compliance with the REIT requirements, such entities may be used by the parent REIT to undertake indirectly activities that the REIT rules might otherwise preclude it from doing directly or indirectly through pass-through subsidiaries or render commercially unfeasible (for example, activities that give rise to certain categories of income such as non-qualifying hedging income or inventory sales).

Certain restrictions imposed on TRSs are intended to ensure that such entities will be subject to appropriate levels of U.S. federal income taxation. If a TRS that has for any taxable year both (i) a debt-to-equity ratio in excess of 1.5 to 1 and (ii) accrued interest expense in excess of accrued interest income, then the TRS may be denied an interest expense deduction for a portion of the interest expense accrued on indebtedness owed to the parent REIT (although the TRS can carry forward the amount disallowed to subsequent taxable years). In addition, if amounts are paid to a REIT or deducted by a TRS due to transactions between the REIT and a TRS that exceed the amount that would be paid to or deducted by a party in an arm's-length transaction, the REIT generally will be subject to an excise tax equal to 100% of such excess. We intend to scrutinize all of our transactions with any of our subsidiaries that are treated as a TRS in an effort to ensure that we do not become subject to this excise tax; however, we cannot assure you that we will be

successful in avoiding this excise tax.

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### *Gross Income Tests*

We must satisfy two gross income tests annually to maintain qualification as a REIT. First, at least 75% of our gross income for each taxable year must consist of defined types of income that we derive from investments relating to real property or mortgages on real property, or from qualified temporary investments. Qualifying income for purposes of the 75% gross income test generally includes:

rents from real property;

interest on debt secured by a mortgage on real property or on interests in real property;

dividends or other distributions on, and gain from the sale of, shares in other REITs;

gain from the sale of real estate assets;

any amount includible in gross income with respect to a regular or residual interest in a REMIC, unless less than 95% of the REMIC's assets are real estate assets, in which case only a proportionate amount of such income will qualify; and

income derived from certain temporary investments.

Second, in general, at least 95% of our gross income for each taxable year must consist of income that is qualifying income for purposes of the 75% gross income test, other types of interest and dividends, gain from the sale or disposition of stock or securities (provided that such stock or securities are not inventory property, i.e., property held primarily for sale to customers in the ordinary course of business), or any combination of these.

Gross income from the sale of inventory property is excluded from both the numerator and the denominator in both income tests. Income and gain from hedging transactions that we enter into to hedge indebtedness incurred or to be incurred to acquire or carry real estate assets will generally be excluded from both the numerator and the denominator for purposes of the 95% gross income test and the 75% gross income test. We intend to monitor the amount of our non-qualifying income and manage our investment portfolio to comply at all times with the gross income tests, but we cannot assure you that we will be successful in this effort.

### *Interest*

The term interest, as defined for purposes of both gross income tests, generally excludes any amount that is based in whole or in part on the income or profits of any person. However, interest generally includes the following: (i) an amount that is based on a fixed percentage or percentages of gross receipts or sales and (ii) an amount that is based on the income or profits of a borrower, where the borrower derives substantially all of its income from the real property securing the debt by leasing substantially all of its interest in the property, but only to the extent that the amounts received by the borrower would be qualifying rents from real property if received directly by a REIT.

If a loan contains a provision that entitles a REIT to a percentage of the borrower's gain upon the sale of the real property securing the loan or a percentage of the appreciation in the property's value as of a specific date, income attributable to that loan provision will be treated as gain from the sale of the property securing the loan, which generally is qualifying income for purposes of both gross income tests, provided that the property is not held as inventory or dealer property.

Interest, including original issue discount and market discount on debt secured by a mortgage on real property or on interests in real property is generally qualifying income for purposes of the 75% gross income test.

Interest, including original issue discount or market discount, that we accrue on our real estate-related investments generally will be qualifying income for purposes of both gross income tests. However, many of our investments will not be secured by mortgages on real property or interests in real property. Our interest income

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from those investments will be qualifying income for purposes of the 95% gross income test, but not the 75% gross income test. In addition, as discussed below, if the fair market value of the real estate securing any of our investments is less than the principal amount of the underlying loan, a portion of the income from that investment will be qualifying income for purposes of the 95% gross income test but not the 75% gross income test.

Where a mortgage covers both real property and other property, an apportionment of interest income may be required for purposes of the 75% gross income test. If a mortgage loan is secured by both real property and personal property, and if the fair market value of the personal property does not exceed 15% of the sum of the fair market values of the real property and personal property securing the mortgage loan (we refer to such personal property as permitted personal property), and the sum of the fair market values of the real property and permitted personal property securing the mortgage loan at the time we commit to originate, acquire or, in some instances, modify the mortgage loan equals or exceeds the highest principal amount of the loan during the year, then all of the interest we accrue on the mortgage loan will qualify for purposes of the 75% gross income test. If, however, the sum of the fair market values of the real property and permitted personal property were less than the highest principal amount, then only a portion of the interest income we accrue on the mortgage loan would qualify for purposes of the 75% gross income test; such portion based on the percentage equivalent of a fraction, the numerator of which is the sum of the fair market value of the real property and permitted personal property securing the mortgage loan and the denominator of which is the principal amount of the mortgage loan.

***MBS***

We have acquired and expect to continue to acquire, through our subsidiaries, mortgage-backed securities (MBS), including Agency MBS, that will be treated either as interests in a grantor trust or as REMIC regular interests. We expect that all income from the MBS in which we invest will be qualifying income for purposes of the 95% gross income test. In the case of interests in grantor trusts, we will be treated as owning an undivided beneficial ownership interest in the mortgage loans held by the grantor trust. Thus, to the extent those mortgage loans are secured by real property or interests in real property, the income from the grantor trust will be qualifying income for purposes of the 75% gross income test. Income that we accrue with respect to REMIC regular interests will generally be treated as qualifying income for purposes of the 75% gross income tests. If, however, less than 95% of the assets of the REMIC are real estate assets, then only a proportionate part of such income will qualify for purposes of the 75% gross income test. We expect that substantially all of the income we have accrued and will accrue on our investments in MBS, and any gain from the disposition of MBS, will be qualifying income for purposes of both the 75% and the 95% gross income tests.

***Foreign Currency Gains***

Certain foreign currency gains recognized after July 30, 2008 are excluded from gross income for purposes of one or both of the gross income tests. Real estate foreign exchange gain is excluded from gross income for purposes of the 75% gross income test. Real estate foreign exchange gain generally includes foreign currency gain attributable to any item of income or gain that is qualifying income for purposes of the 75% gross income test, foreign currency gain attributable to the acquisition or ownership of (or becoming or being the obligor under) obligations secured by mortgages on real property or on interest in real property and certain foreign currency gain attributable to certain qualified business units of a REIT. Passive foreign exchange gain will be excluded from gross income for purposes of the 95% gross income test. Passive foreign exchange gain generally includes real estate foreign exchange gain as described above, and it also includes foreign currency gain attributable to any item of income or gain that is qualifying income for purposes of the 95% gross income test and foreign currency gain attributable to the acquisition or ownership of (or becoming or being the obligor under) obligations. Because passive foreign exchange gain includes real estate foreign exchange gain, real estate foreign exchange gain is excluded from gross income for purposes of

both the 75% and 95% gross income tests. These exclusions for real estate foreign exchange gain and passive foreign exchange gain do not apply to foreign currency gain derived from dealing, or engaging in substantial and regular trading, in securities. Such gain is treated as non-qualifying income for purposes of both the 75% and 95% gross income tests.



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### *Fee Income*

We may receive various fees in connection with our operations. The fees will be qualifying income for purposes of both the 75% gross income and 95% gross income tests if they are received in consideration for entering into an agreement to make a loan secured by a mortgage on real property or an interest in real property and the fees are not determined by income or profits of any person. Other fees are not qualifying income for purposes of either gross income test. Any fees earned by our TRS will not be included for purposes of the gross income tests.

### *Dividends*

Our share of any dividends received from any corporation (including any TRS, but excluding any REIT or any qualified REIT subsidiary) in which we own an equity interest will qualify for purposes of the 95% gross income test but not for purposes of the 75% gross income test. Our share of any dividends received from any other REIT in which we own an equity interest will be qualifying income for purposes of both gross income tests.

### *Rents from Real Property*

We currently do not intend to acquire real property with the proceeds of offerings of these securities.

### *Failure to Satisfy Gross Income Tests*

We have monitored and intend to continue monitoring the amount of our non-qualifying income and manage our assets to comply with the gross income tests for each taxable year for which we seek to maintain our REIT qualification. We cannot assure you, however, that we will be able to satisfy the gross income tests. If we fail to satisfy one or both of the gross income tests for any taxable year, we may nevertheless qualify as a REIT for such year if we qualify for relief under certain provisions of the Code. These relief provisions will be generally available if (i) our failure to meet such tests was due to reasonable cause and not due to willful neglect, and (ii) we file with the IRS a schedule describing the sources of our gross income in accordance with Treasury Regulations. We cannot predict, however, whether in all circumstances, we would qualify for the benefit of these relief provisions. In addition, as discussed above, even if the relief provisions apply, a tax would be imposed upon the amount by which we fail to satisfy the particular gross income test.

In addition, the Secretary of the Treasury has been given broad authority to determine whether particular items of gain or income recognized after July 30, 2008 qualify under the 75% and 95% gross income tests or whether they are to be excluded from the measure of gross income for such purposes.

### *Cash/Income Differences Phantom Income*

Due to the nature of the assets in which we will invest, we may be required to recognize taxable income from those assets in advance of our receipt of cash flow on or proceeds from disposition of such assets, and we may be required to report taxable income in early periods that exceeds the economic income ultimately realized on such assets.

We may acquire MBS in the secondary market for less than their face amount. The discount at which such debt instruments are acquired may reflect doubts about their ultimate collectability rather than current market interest rates. The amount of such discount will nevertheless generally be treated as market discount for U.S. federal income tax purposes. Payments on mortgage loans are ordinarily made monthly, and consequently, accrued market discounts generally will have to be included in income each month as if the debt instrument were assured of ultimately being collected in full. If we collect less on the debt instrument than the sum of our purchase price and the market discount

we had previously reported as income, we may not be able to benefit from any offsetting loss deductions.

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Some of the MBS that we acquire may have been issued with original issue discount. In general, we will be required to accrue original issue discount based on the constant yield to maturity of the MBS and to treat the accrued original issue discount as taxable income in accordance with applicable U.S. federal income tax rules even though smaller or no cash payments are received on such debt instrument. As in the case of the market discount discussed in the preceding paragraph, the constant yield in question will be determined and we will be taxed based on the assumption that all future payments due on the MBS in question will be made, with consequences similar to those described in the previous paragraph if all payments on the MBS are not made.

In addition, if any debt instruments or MBS acquired by us are delinquent as to mandatory principal and interest payments, or if payments with respect to a particular debt instrument are not made when due, we may nonetheless be required to continue to recognize the unpaid interest as taxable income. Similarly, we may be required to accrue interest income with respect to subordinate MBS at the stated rate regardless of whether corresponding cash payments are received.

Finally, we may be required under the terms of indebtedness that we incur, whether to private lenders or pursuant to government programs, to use cash received from interest payments to make principal payments on that indebtedness, with the effect of recognizing income but not having a corresponding amount of cash available for distribution to our stockholders.

Due to each of these potential timing differences between income recognition or expense deduction and the related cash receipts or disbursements, there is a significant risk that we may have substantial taxable income in excess of cash available for distribution. In that event, we may need to borrow funds or take other actions to satisfy the REIT distribution requirements for the taxable year in which this phantom income is recognized. See Annual Distribution Requirements.

**Asset Tests**

To qualify as a REIT, we also must satisfy the following asset tests at the end of each quarter of each taxable year. First, at least 75% of the value of our total assets must consist of some combination of real estate assets, cash, cash items, government securities, and, under some circumstances, stock or debt instruments purchased with new capital. For this purpose, the term real estate assets includes interests in real property (including leaseholds and options to acquire real property and leaseholds), stock of other corporations that qualify as REITs, and, to a limited extent, certain debt issued by publicly offered REITs, and interests in mortgage loans secured by real property (including certain types of mortgage-backed securities). Assets that do not qualify for purposes of the 75% test are subject to the additional asset tests described below.

Second, the value of our interest in any one issuer's securities (other than debt and equity securities issued by any of our TRSs, qualified REIT subsidiaries, any other entity that is disregarded as an entity separate from us, any equity interest we may hold in a partnership, and any security that is a real estate asset) may not exceed 5% of the value of our total assets. Third, we may not own more than 10% of the voting power or 10% of the value of any one issuer's outstanding securities (other than debt and equity securities issued by any of our TRSs, qualified REIT subsidiaries, any other entity that is disregarded as an entity separate from us, any equity interest we may hold in a partnership, and any security that is a real estate asset). Solely for purposes of the 10% asset test, the determination of our interest in the assets of a partnership or limited liability company in which we own an interest will be based on our proportionate interest in any securities issued by the partnership or limited liability company, excluding for this purpose certain securities in the Code. Fourth, no more than 25% (20% for taxable years beginning after December 31, 2017) of the value of our total assets may consist of the securities of one or more TRSs. Fifth, no more than 25% of the value of our total assets may consist of nonqualified publicly offered REIT debt instruments. For purposes of the 10% value

test, the term "securities" does not include certain "straight debt" securities.

Notwithstanding the general rule that, for purposes of the gross income and asset tests, a REIT is treated as owning its proportionate share of the underlying assets of a partnership in which it holds a partnership interest, if

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a REIT holds indebtedness issued by a partnership, the indebtedness will be subject to, and may cause a violation of, the asset tests, unless it is a qualifying mortgage asset or otherwise satisfies the rules for straight debt. Stock of another REIT qualifies as a real estate asset for purposes of the REIT asset tests, and non-mortgage debt issued by a publicly traded REIT may also qualify as a real estate asset.

Certain securities will not cause a violation of the 10% asset test described above. Such securities include instruments that constitute straight debt, which includes, among other things, securities having certain contingency features. A security does not qualify as straight debt where a REIT (or a controlled TRS of the REIT) owns other securities of the same issuer that do not qualify as straight debt, unless the value of those other securities constitute, in the aggregate, 1% or less of the total value of that issuer's outstanding securities. In addition to straight debt, the Code provides that certain other securities will not violate the 10% asset test. Such securities include (i) any loan made to an individual or an estate, (ii) certain rental agreements pursuant to which one or more payments are to be made in subsequent years (other than agreements between a REIT and certain persons related to the REIT under attribution rules), (iii) any obligation to pay rents from real property, (iv) securities issued by governmental entities that are not dependent in whole or in part on the profits of (or payments made by) a non-governmental entity, (v) any security (including debt securities) issued by another REIT, and (vi) any debt instrument issued by a partnership if the partnership's income is of a nature that it would satisfy the 75% gross income test described above under Gross Income Tests. In applying the 10% asset test, a debt security issued by a partnership is not taken into account to the extent, if any, of the REIT's proportionate interest in the equity and certain debt securities issued by that partnership.

We intend to acquire and manage, through our subsidiaries, MBS that are either interests in grantor trusts or REMIC regular interests. In the case of interests in grantor trusts, we will be treated as owning an undivided beneficial ownership interest in the mortgage loans held by the grantor trust, and we will be treated as owning an interest in real estate assets to the extent those mortgage loans held by the grantor trust represent real estate assets. In the case of REMIC regular interests, such regular interests will generally qualify as real estate assets. If, however, less than 95% of the REMIC's assets are real estate assets, then only a proportionate part of the regular interest will be a real estate asset. We expect that substantially all of the MBS we acquire will be treated as real estate assets.

In addition, we have and expect to continue to enter into repurchase agreements under which we will nominally sell certain of our assets to a counterparty and simultaneously enter into an agreement to repurchase the sold assets. We believe that we will be treated for U.S. federal income tax purposes as the owner of the assets that are the subject of any such repurchase agreement and the repurchase agreement will be treated as a secured lending transaction notwithstanding that we may transfer record ownership of the assets to the counterparty during the term of the agreement. It is possible, however, that the IRS could successfully assert that we did not own the assets during the term of the repurchase agreement, in which case we could fail to qualify as a REIT.

We believe that most of the assets that we hold and those we expect to hold will be qualifying assets for purposes of the 75% asset test. However, our investment in other asset-backed securities, bank loans and other instruments that are not secured by mortgages on real property will not be qualifying assets for purposes of the 75% asset test.

We have monitored and will continue to monitor the status of our assets for purposes of the various asset tests and will seek to manage our portfolio to comply at all times with such tests. There can be no assurance, however, that we will be successful in this effort. In this regard, to determine our compliance with these requirements, we will need to estimate the value of our assets to ensure compliance with the asset tests. We will not obtain independent appraisals to support our conclusions concerning the values of our assets, and we will generally rely on representations and warranties of sellers from whom we acquire mortgage loans concerning the loan-to-value ratios for such mortgage loans. Moreover, some of the assets that we may own may not be susceptible to precise valuation. Although we will seek to be prudent in making these estimates, there can be no assurance that the IRS will not disagree with these

determinations and assert that a different value is applicable, in which case we might not satisfy the 75% asset test and the other asset tests and would fail to qualify as a REIT.

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### ***Failure to Satisfy Asset Tests***

If we fail to satisfy the asset tests at the end of a quarter, we will not lose our REIT qualification if:

we satisfied the asset tests at the end of the preceding calendar quarter; and

the discrepancy between the value of our assets and the asset test requirements arose from changes in the market values of our assets and was not wholly or partly caused by the acquisition of one or more non-qualifying assets.

If we did not satisfy the condition described in the second bullet above, we may still avoid disqualification by eliminating any discrepancy within 30 days after the close of the calendar quarter in which it arose.

If we violate the 5% value test, 10% voting test or 10% value test described above at the end of any calendar quarter, we will not lose our REIT qualification if (i) the failure is de minimis (up to the lesser of 1% of our total assets or \$10 million) and (ii) we dispose of the non-qualifying assets or otherwise comply with the asset tests within six months after the last day of the quarter in which we identified the failure. In the event of a more than de minimis failure of any of the asset tests, as long as the failure was due to reasonable cause and not to willful neglect, we will not lose our REIT qualification if we (i) file with the IRS a schedule describing the assets that caused the failure, (ii) dispose of such assets or otherwise comply with the asset tests within six months after the last day of the quarter in which we identified the failure and (iii) pay a tax equal to the greater of \$50,000 per failure or an amount equal to the product of the highest corporate income tax rate (currently 35%) and the net income from the non-qualifying assets during the period in which we failed to satisfy the asset tests.

### **Annual Distribution Requirements**

To qualify as a REIT, we are required to distribute dividends (other than capital gain dividends) to our stockholders in an amount at least equal to:

(A) the sum of

- (i) 90% of our REIT taxable income (computed without regard to the dividends paid deduction and our net capital gains), and
- (ii) 90% of the net income (after tax), if any, from foreclosure property (as described below), minus

(B) the sum of certain items of non-cash income.

In addition, if we were to recognize built-in-gain (as defined below) on disposition of any assets acquired from a C corporation in a transaction in which our basis in the assets was determined by reference to the C corporation's basis (for instance, if the assets were acquired in a tax-free reorganization), we would be required to distribute at least 90% of the built-in-gain recognized net of the tax we would pay on such gain. Built-in-gain is the excess of (a) the fair

market value of an asset (measured at the time of acquisition) over (b) the basis of the asset (measured at the time of acquisition).

Such distributions must be paid in the taxable year to which they relate, or in the following taxable year if either (i) we declare the distribution before we file a timely U.S. federal income tax return for the year and pay the distribution with or before the first regular dividend payment after such declaration or (ii) we declare the distribution in October, November or December of the taxable year, payable to stockholders of record on a specified day in any such month, and we actually pay the dividends before the end of January of the following year. The distributions under clause (i) are taxable to the Owners of our common stock in the year in which paid, and the distributions in clause (ii) are treated as paid on December 31 of the prior taxable year. In both instances, these distributions relate to our prior taxable year for purposes of the 90% distribution requirement.

For distributions to be counted as satisfying the annual distribution requirements for REITs, and to provide us with a REIT-level tax deduction, the distributions must not be preferential dividends. A dividend is not a



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preferential dividend if the distribution is (i) pro rata among all outstanding shares of stock within a particular class and (ii) in accordance with the preferences among different classes of stock as set forth in our organizational documents.

We will pay U.S. federal income tax at corporate tax rates on our taxable income, including net capital gain, that we do not distribute to stockholders. Furthermore, if we fail to distribute during each calendar year, or by the end of January following the calendar year in the case of distributions with declaration and record dates falling in the last three months of the calendar year, at least the sum of (i) 85% of our REIT ordinary income for such year, (ii) 95% of our REIT capital gain income for such year and (iii) any undistributed taxable income from prior periods, we will be subject to a 4% nondeductible excise tax on the excess of such required distribution over the amounts actually distributed. We generally intend to make timely distributions sufficient to satisfy the annual distribution requirements and to avoid corporate U.S. federal income tax and the 4% nondeductible excise tax.

We may elect to retain, rather than distribute, our net capital gain and pay tax on such gains. In this case, we could elect to have our stockholders include their proportionate share of such undistributed capital gains in income and to receive a corresponding credit or refund, as the case may be, for their share of the tax paid by us. Stockholders would then increase the adjusted basis of their stock by the difference between the designated amounts of capital gains from us that they include in their taxable income and the tax paid on their behalf by us with respect to that income.

To the extent that a REIT has available net operating losses carried forward from prior tax years, such losses may reduce the amount of distributions that the REIT must make to comply with the REIT distribution requirements. Such losses, however, will generally not affect the character, in the hands of stockholders, of any distributions that are actually made by the REIT, which are generally taxable to stockholders to the extent that the REIT has current or accumulated earnings and profits. See Taxation of Owners, Taxation of Taxable Domestic Owners.

We may find it difficult or impossible to meet distribution requirements in certain circumstances. Due to the nature of the assets in which we will invest, we may be required to recognize taxable income from those assets in advance of our receipt of cash flow on or proceeds from disposition of such assets. For instance, we may be required to accrue interest and discount income on mortgage loans, mortgage-backed securities, and other types of debt securities or interests in debt securities before we receive any payments of interest or principal on such assets. Moreover, in certain instances, we may be required to accrue taxable income that we may not actually recognize as economic income. For example, if we own a residual equity position in a mortgage loan securitization, we may recognize taxable income that we will never actually receive due to losses sustained on the underlying mortgage loans. Although those losses would be deductible for tax purposes, they would likely occur in a year subsequent to the year in which we recognized the taxable income. Thus, for any taxable year, we may be required to fund distributions in excess of cash flow received from our investments. If such circumstances arise, then to fund our distribution requirement and maintain our status as a REIT, we may have to sell assets at unfavorable prices, borrow at unfavorable terms, make taxable stock dividends, or pursue other strategies. We cannot be assured, however, that any such strategy would be successful if our cash flow were to become insufficient to make the required distributions. Alternatively, we may declare a taxable dividend payable in cash or stock at the election of each stockholder, where the aggregate amount of cash to be distributed in such dividend may be subject to limitation. In such case, for U.S. federal income tax purposes, the amount of the dividend paid in stock will be equal to the amount of cash that could have been received instead of stock.

Under certain circumstances, we may be able to rectify a failure to meet the distribution requirement for a year by paying deficiency dividends to stockholders in a later year, which may be included in our deduction for dividends paid for the earlier year. Thus, we may be able to avoid being taxed on amounts distributed as deficiency dividends; however, we will be required to pay interest and a penalty to the IRS based on the amount of any deduction taken for deficiency dividends.



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### **Failure to Qualify**

If we fail to satisfy one or more requirements for REIT qualification, other than the gross income tests and the asset tests, we could avoid disqualification if our failure is due to reasonable cause and not to willful neglect and we pay a penalty of \$50,000 for each such failure. In addition, there are relief provisions for a failure of the gross income tests and asset tests, as described in **Gross Income Tests** and **Asset Tests**.

If we fail to qualify for taxation as a REIT in any taxable year, and the relief provisions do not apply, we will be subject to tax (including any applicable alternative minimum tax) on our taxable income at regular federal corporate income tax rates. Distributions to stockholders in any year in which we fail to qualify will not be deductible by us, and nor will they be required to be made. In such event, to the extent of current and accumulated earnings and profits, all distributions to stockholders will be taxable as ordinary income, and, subject to certain limitations of the Code, corporate stockholders may be eligible for the dividends received deduction, and individual stockholders and other non-corporate stockholders may be eligible to be taxed at the reduced 20% rate currently applicable to qualified dividend income. Unless entitled to relief under specific statutory provisions, we will also be disqualified from taxation as a REIT for the four taxable years following the year during which qualification was lost. We cannot predict whether in all circumstances we would be entitled to such statutory relief.

### **Prohibited Transactions**

Net income derived by a REIT from a prohibited transaction is subject to a 100% excise tax. The term **prohibited transaction** generally includes a sale or other disposition of property (other than foreclosure property) that is held primarily for sale to customers in the ordinary course of a trade or business. Although we do not expect that our assets will be held primarily for sale to customers or that a sale of any of our assets will be in the ordinary course of our business, these terms are dependent upon the particular facts and circumstances, and we cannot assure you that we will never be subject to this excise tax. The 100% tax does not apply to gains from the sale of property that is held through a TRS or other taxable corporation, although such income will be subject to tax in the hands of the corporation at regular U.S. federal corporate income tax rates. We intend to structure our activities to avoid transactions that are prohibited transactions.

### **Foreclosure Property**

A REIT is subject to tax at the maximum corporate rate (currently 35%) on any income from foreclosure property, including gain from the disposition of such foreclosure property, other than income that otherwise would be qualifying income for purposes of the 75% gross income test. Foreclosure property is real property and any personal property incident to such real property (i) that is acquired by a REIT as a result of the REIT having bid on such property at foreclosure, or having otherwise reduced the property to ownership or possession by agreement or process of law, after there was a default (or default was imminent) on a lease of such property or a mortgage loan held by the REIT and secured by the property, (ii) for which the related loan or lease was acquired by the REIT at a time when default was not imminent or anticipated and (iii) for which such REIT makes a proper election to treat the property as foreclosure property. Any gain from the sale of property for which a foreclosure election has been made will not be subject to the 100% excise tax on gains from prohibited transactions described above, even if the property would otherwise constitute inventory or dealer property in the hands of the selling REIT. We do not expect to receive income from foreclosure property that is not qualifying income for purposes of the 75% gross income test. However, if we do receive any such income, we intend to make an election to treat the related property as foreclosure property.

### **Derivatives and Hedging Transactions**

We and our subsidiaries may enter into hedging transactions with respect to interest rate exposure on one or more of our assets or liabilities. Any such hedging transactions could take a variety of forms, including the use of

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derivative instruments such as interest rate swap contracts, interest rate cap or floor contracts, futures or forward contracts, and options. Except to the extent provided by Treasury Regulations, any income from a hedging transaction we enter into (i) in the normal course of our business primarily to manage risk of interest rate or price changes or currency fluctuations with respect to borrowings made or to be made, or ordinary obligations incurred or to be incurred, to acquire or carry real estate assets, which is clearly identified as specified in Treasury Regulations before the close of the day on which it was acquired, originated, or entered into, including gain from the sale or disposition of such a transaction, and (ii) primarily to manage risk of currency fluctuations with respect to any item of income or gain that would be qualifying income under the 75% or 95% income tests (or any asset that produces such income), which is clearly identified as such before the close of the day on which it was acquired, originated, or entered into, will not constitute gross income for purposes of the 75% or 95% gross income test. To the extent that we enter into other types of hedging transactions, the income from those transactions is likely to be treated as non-qualifying income for purposes of both of the 75% and 95% gross income tests. We intend to structure any hedging transactions in a manner that does not jeopardize our qualification as a REIT. We may conduct some or all of our hedging activities (including hedging activities relating to currency risk) through a TRS or other corporate entity, the income from which may be subject to U.S. federal income tax, rather than by participating in the arrangements directly or indirectly through pass-through subsidiaries. No assurance can be given, however, that our hedging activities will not give rise to income that does not qualify for purposes of either or both of the REIT gross income tests, or that our hedging activities will not adversely affect our ability to satisfy the REIT qualification requirements.

**Taxable Mortgage Pools**

An entity, or a portion of an entity, may be classified as a TMP under the Code if (i) substantially all of its assets consist of debt obligations or interests in debt obligations, (ii) more than 50% of those debt obligations are real estate mortgage loans, interests in real estate mortgage loans or interests in certain mortgage-backed securities as of specified testing dates, (iii) the entity has issued debt obligations that have two or more maturities and (iv) the payments required to be made by the entity on its debt obligations bear a relationship to the payments to be received by the entity on the debt obligations that it holds as assets. Under Treasury Regulations, if less than 80% of the assets of an entity (or a portion of an entity) consist of debt obligations, these debt obligations are considered not to comprise substantially all of its assets, and therefore the entity would not be treated as a TMP.

We do not intend to structure or enter into securitization or financing transactions that will cause us to be viewed as owning interests in one or more TMPs. Generally, if an entity or a portion of an entity is classified as a TMP, then the entity or portion thereof is treated as a taxable corporation and it cannot file a consolidated U.S. federal income tax return with any other corporation. If, however, a REIT owns 100% of the equity interests in a TMP, then the TMP is a qualified REIT subsidiary and, as such, ignored as an entity separate from the REIT.

If, notwithstanding our intent to avoid having the issuing entity in any of our securitization or financing transactions classified as a TMP, one or more of such transactions were so classified, then as long as we owned 100% of the equity interests in the TMP, all or a portion of the income that we recognize with respect to our investment in the TMP will be treated as excess inclusion income. Section 860E(c) of the Code defines the term excess inclusion with respect to a residual interest in a REMIC. The IRS, however, has yet to issue guidance on the computation of excess inclusion income on equity interests in a TMP held by a REIT. Generally, however, excess inclusion income with respect to our investment in any TMP and any taxable year will equal the excess of (i) the amount of income we accrue on our investment in the TMP over (ii) the amount of income we would have accrued if our investment were a debt instrument having an issue price equal to the fair market value of our investment on the day we acquired it and a yield to maturity equal to 120% of the long-term applicable federal rate in effect on the date we acquired our interest. The term applicable federal rate refers to rates that are based on weighted average yields for Treasury securities and are published monthly by the IRS for use in various tax calculations. If we undertake securitization transactions that are

TMPs, the amount of excess inclusion income we recognize in any taxable year could represent a significant portion of our total taxable income for that year.

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Although we intend to structure our securitization and financing transactions so that we will not recognize any excess inclusion income, we cannot assure you that we will always be successful in this regard. If, notwithstanding our intent, we recognized excess inclusion income, then under guidance issued by the IRS, we would be required to allocate the excess inclusion income proportionately among the dividends we pay to our stockholders and we must notify our stockholders of the portion of our dividends that represents excess inclusion income. The portion of any dividend you receive that is treated as excess inclusion income is subject to special rules. First, your taxable income can never be less than the sum of your excess inclusion income for the year; excess inclusion income cannot be offset with net operating losses or other allowable deductions. Second, if you are a tax-exempt organization and your excess inclusion income is subject to the unrelated business income tax, then the excess inclusion portion of any dividend you receive will be treated as unrelated business taxable income. Third, dividends paid to Foreign Owners who hold stock for investment and not in connection with a trade or business conducted in the United States will be subject to U.S. federal withholding tax without regard to any reduction in rate otherwise allowed by any applicable income tax treaty.

If we recognize excess inclusion income and one or more Disqualified Organizations are record holders of shares of common stock, we will be taxable at the highest federal corporate income tax rate on the portion of any excess inclusion income equal to the percentage of our stock that is held by Disqualified Organizations. In such circumstances, we may reduce the amount of our distributions to a Disqualified Organization whose stock ownership gave rise to the tax. To the extent that our common stock owned by Disqualified Organizations is held by a broker/dealer or other nominee, the broker/dealer or other nominee would be liable for a tax at the highest corporate tax rate on the portion of our excess inclusion income allocable to our common stock held by the broker/dealer or other nominee on behalf of the Disqualified Organizations.

If we own less than 100% of the equity interests in a TMP, the foregoing rules would not apply. Rather, the entity would be treated as a corporation for U.S. federal income tax purposes and would potentially be subject to federal corporate income tax. This could adversely affect our compliance with the REIT gross income and asset tests described above. We currently do not have, and currently do not intend to enter into, any securitization or financing transaction that is a TMP in which we own some, but less than all, of the equity interests, and we intend to monitor the structure of any TMPs in which we have an interest to ensure that they will not adversely affect our status as a REIT. We cannot assure you that we will be successful in this regard.

## **Taxation of Owners**

### ***Taxation of Taxable Domestic Owners***

#### ***Distributions***

As long as we qualify as a REIT, distributions we make to our taxable Domestic Owners out of current or accumulated earnings and profits (and not designated as capital gain dividends) will be taken into account by them as ordinary income. Dividends we pay to a corporation will not be eligible for the dividends received deduction. In addition, distributions we make to individuals and other Owners that are not corporations generally will not be eligible for the 20% reduced rate of tax currently in effect for qualified dividend income. However, provided certain holding period and other requirements are met, an individual or other non-corporate Owner will be eligible for the 20% reduced rate with respect to (i) distributions attributable to dividends we receive from certain C corporations, such as our TRSs, and (ii) distributions attributable to income upon which we have paid corporate income tax.

Distributions that we designate as capital gain dividends will be taxed as long-term capital gains (to the extent that they do not exceed our actual net capital gain for the taxable year) without regard to the period for which you have owned our common stock. However, corporate Owners may be required to treat up to 20% of certain capital gain

dividends as ordinary income.

Rather than distribute our net capital gains, we may elect to retain and pay the U.S. federal income tax on them, in which case you will (i) include your proportionate share of the undistributed net capital gains in income,



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(ii) receive a credit for your share of the U.S. federal income tax we pay and (iii) increase the basis in your common stock by the difference between your share of the capital gain and your share of the credit.

Distributions in excess of our current and accumulated earnings and profits will not be taxable to you to the extent that they do not exceed your adjusted tax basis in our common stock you own, but rather, will reduce your adjusted tax basis in your common stock. Assuming that the common stock you own is a capital asset, to the extent that such distributions exceed your adjusted tax basis in the common stock you own, you must include them in income as long-term capital gain (or short-term capital gain if the common stock has been held for one year or less). For individuals, trusts and estates, long-term capital gains are currently taxable at a maximum U.S. federal income tax rate of 20% and short-term capital gains are currently taxable at a maximum U.S. federal income tax rate of 39.6%. Gains for corporations, whether characterized as long-term or short-term, are currently taxable at a maximum U.S. federal income tax rate of 35%. Capital gains attributable to the sale of depreciable real property held for more than 12 months are subject to a 25% maximum U.S. federal income tax rate for taxpayers who are taxed as individuals, to the extent of previously claimed depreciation deductions.

If we declare a dividend in October, November or December of any year that is payable to stockholders of record on a specified date in any such month, but actually distribute the amount declared in January of the following year, then you must treat the January distribution as though you received it on December 31 of the year in which we declared the dividend. In addition, we may elect to treat other distributions after the close of the taxable year as having been paid during the taxable year, but you will be treated as having received these distributions in the taxable year in which they are actually made.

To the extent that we have available net operating losses and capital losses carried forward from prior tax years, such losses may reduce the amount of distributions that we must make to comply with the REIT distribution requirements. See Annual Distribution Requirements. Such losses, however, are not passed through to you and do not offset your income from other sources, nor would they affect the character of any distributions that you receive from us; you will be subject to tax on those distributions to the extent that we have current or accumulated earnings and profits.

Although we do not expect to recognize any excess inclusion income, if we did recognize excess inclusion income, we would identify a portion of the distributions that we make to you as excess inclusion income. Your taxable income can never be less than the sum of your excess inclusion income for the year; excess inclusion income cannot be offset with net operating losses or other allowable deductions. See Taxable Mortgage Pools.

### *Dispositions of Our Stock*

Any gain or loss you recognize upon the sale or other disposition of our common stock will generally be capital gain or loss for U.S. federal income tax purposes, and will be long-term capital gain or loss if you held the common stock for more than one year. In addition, any loss you recognize upon a sale or exchange of our common stock that you have owned for six months or less (after applying certain holding period rules) will generally be treated as a long-term capital loss to the extent of distributions received from us that you are required to treat as long-term capital gain.

If you recognize a loss upon a disposition of our common stock in an amount that exceeds a prescribed threshold, it is possible that the provisions of recently adopted Treasury Regulations involving reportable transactions could apply, with a resulting requirement to separately disclose the loss-generating transaction to the IRS. While these regulations are directed towards tax shelters, they are written quite broadly and apply to transactions that would not typically be considered tax shelters. In addition, recently enacted legislation imposes significant penalties for failure to comply with these requirements. You should consult your tax advisor concerning any possible disclosure obligation with respect to the receipt or disposition of our common stock, or transactions that might be undertaken directly or

indirectly by us. Moreover, you should be aware that we and other participants in the transactions involving us (including our advisors) may be subject to disclosure or other requirements pursuant to these regulations.

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Amounts that you are required to include in taxable income with respect to our common stock you own, including taxable distributions and the income you recognize with respect to undistributed net capital gain, and any gain recognized upon your disposition of our common stock, will not be treated as passive activity income. You may not offset any passive activity losses you may have, such as losses from limited partnerships in which you have invested, with income you recognize with respect to our shares of common stock. Generally, income you recognize with respect to our common stock will be treated as investment income for purposes of the investment interest limitations.

### *Additional Medicare Tax*

Individuals, estates or trusts whose income exceeds certain thresholds will be subject to an additional 3.8% Medicare tax on dividends and certain other investment income. Such other investment income will include capital gains from the sale or other disposition of our common stock.

### *Information Reporting and Backup Withholding*

We will report to our stockholders and to the IRS the amount of distributions we pay during each calendar year and the amount of tax we withhold, if any. Under the backup withholding rules, you may be subject to backup withholding at a current rate of 28% with respect to distributions unless you:

are a corporation or come within certain other exempt categories and, when required, demonstrate this fact;  
or

provide a taxpayer identification number, certify as to no loss of exemption from backup withholding, and otherwise comply with the applicable requirements of the backup withholding rules.

Any amount paid as backup withholding will be creditable against your U.S. federal income tax liability. For a discussion of the backup withholding rules as applied to foreign owners, see [Taxation of Foreign Owners](#).

### *Taxation of Tax-Exempt Owners*

Tax-exempt entities, including qualified employee pension and profit sharing trusts and individual retirement accounts, are generally exempt from U.S. federal income taxation. However, they are subject to taxation on their unrelated business taxable income (UBTI). Provided that a tax-exempt Owner (i) has not held our common stock as debt financed property within the meaning of the Code and (ii) has not used our common stock in an unrelated trade or business, amounts that we distribute to tax-exempt Owners generally should not constitute UBTI. To the extent that we are (or a part of us, or a disregarded subsidiary of ours is) a TMP, a portion of the dividends paid to a tax-exempt stockholder that is allocable to excess inclusion income may be treated as UBTI. If, however, excess inclusion income is allocable to some categories of tax-exempt stockholders that are not subject to UBTI, we might be subject to corporate level tax on such income, and in that case, may reduce the amount of distributions to those stockholders whose ownership gave rise to the tax. However, a tax-exempt Owner's allocable share of any excess inclusion income that we recognize will be subject to tax as UBTI. See [Taxable Mortgage Pools](#). We intend to structure our securitization and financing transactions so that we will avoid recognizing any excess inclusion income. However, if a portion of a dividend paid by us is attributable to excess inclusion income, as required by IRS guidance, we intend to notify our stockholders of such attribution.

Tax-exempt Owners that are social clubs, voluntary employee benefit associations, supplemental unemployment benefit trusts and qualified group legal services plans, exempt from taxation under special provisions of the U.S. federal income tax laws, are subject to different UBTI rules, which generally will require them to characterize distributions that they receive from us as UBTI.

In certain circumstances, a qualified employee pension trust or profit sharing trust that owns more than 10% of our stock could be required to treat a percentage of the dividends that it receives from us as UBTI if we are a

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pension-held REIT. We will not be a pension-held REIT unless either (a) one pension trust owns more than 25% of the value of our stock or (b) a group of pension trusts individually holding more than 10% of our stock collectively owns more than 50% of the value of our stock. However, the restrictions on ownership and transfer of our stock are designed to, among other things, prevent a tax-exempt entity from owning more than 10% of the value of our stock, thus making it unlikely that we will become a pension-held REIT.

### ***Taxation of Foreign Owners***

The following is a summary of certain U.S. federal income and estate tax consequences of the ownership and disposition of our common stock applicable to a Foreign Owner.

If a partnership, including for this purpose any entity that is treated as a partnership for U.S. federal income tax purposes, holds our common stock, the tax treatment of a partner in the partnership will generally depend upon the status of the partner and the activities of the partnership. An investor that is a partnership having Foreign Owners as partners should consult its tax advisors about the U.S. federal income tax consequences of the acquisition, ownership and disposition of our common stock.

This discussion is based on current law and is for general information only. This discussion addresses only certain and not all aspects of U.S. federal income and estate taxation.

For most foreign investors, investment in a REIT that invests principally in mortgage loans and MBS is not the most tax-efficient way to acquire and manage, through our subsidiaries, such assets. That is because receiving distributions of income derived from such assets in the form of REIT dividends subjects most foreign investors to withholding taxes that direct investment in those asset classes, and the direct receipt of interest and principal payments, with respect to them, would not. The principal exceptions are foreign sovereigns and their agencies and instrumentalities, which may be exempt from withholding taxes on REIT dividends under the Code, and certain foreign pension funds or similar entities able to claim an exemption from withholding taxes on REIT dividends under the terms of a bilateral tax treaty between their country of residence and the United States.

### ***Ordinary Dividend Distributions***

The portion of dividends received by a Foreign Owner payable out of our current and accumulated earnings and profits that are not attributable to our capital gains and that are not effectively connected with a U.S. trade or business of the Foreign Owner will be subject to U.S. withholding tax at the rate of 30% (unless reduced by an applicable income tax treaty). In general, a Foreign Owner will not be considered engaged in a U.S. trade or business solely as a result of its ownership of our common stock. In cases where the dividend income from a Foreign Owner's investment in our common stock is (or is treated as) effectively connected with the Foreign Owner's conduct of a U.S. trade or business, the Foreign Owner generally will be subject to U.S. tax at graduated rates, in the same manner as Domestic Owners are taxed with respect to such dividends (and may also be subject to the 30% branch profits tax in the case of a foreign owner that is a foreign corporation). If a Foreign Owner is the record holder of shares of our common stock, we plan to withhold U.S. income tax at the rate of 30% on the gross amount of any distribution paid to a Foreign Owner unless:

a lower income treaty rate applies and the Foreign Owner provides us with an IRS Form W-8BEN evidencing eligibility for that reduced rate; or

the Foreign Owner provides us with an IRS Form W-8ECI certifying that the distribution is effectively connected income.

Under some income tax treaties, lower withholding tax rates do not apply to ordinary dividends from REITs. Furthermore, reduced treaty rates are not available to the extent that distributions are treated as excess inclusion income. See Taxable Mortgage Pools. We intend to structure our securitization and financing transactions so that we will avoid recognizing any excess inclusion income. However, if a portion of a dividend paid by us is attributable to excess inclusion income, as required by IRS guidance, we intend to notify our stockholders of such attribution.

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**Table of Contents***Non-Dividend Distributions*

Distributions we make to a Foreign Owner that are not considered to be distributions out of our current and accumulated earnings and profits will not be subject to U.S. federal income or withholding tax unless the distribution exceeds the Foreign Owner's adjusted tax basis in our common stock at the time of the distribution and, as described below, the Foreign Owner would otherwise be taxable on any gain from a disposition of our common stock. If it cannot be determined at the time a distribution is made whether or not such distribution will be in excess of our current and accumulated earnings and profits, the entire distribution will be subject to withholding at the rate applicable to dividends. A Foreign Owner may, however, seek a refund of such amounts from the IRS if it is subsequently determined that the distribution was, in fact, in excess of our current and accumulated earnings and profits, provided the proper forms are timely filed with the IRS by the Foreign Owner.

*Capital Gain Dividends*

Distributions that we make to Foreign Owners that are attributable to our disposition of U.S. real property interests (USRPI, which term does not include interests in mortgage loans and mortgage-backed securities) are subject to U.S. federal income and withholding taxes pursuant to the Foreign Investment in Real Property Act of 1980, or FIRPTA, and may also be subject to branch profits tax if the Foreign Owner is a corporation that is not entitled to treaty relief or exemption. Although we do not anticipate recognizing any gain attributable to the disposition of USRPI, as defined by FIRPTA, Treasury Regulations interpreting the FIRPTA provisions of the Code could be read to impose a withholding tax at a rate of 35% on all of our capital gain dividends (or amounts we could have designated as capital gain dividends) paid to Foreign Owners, even if no portion of the capital gains we recognize during the year are attributable to our disposition of USRPI. However, in any event, the FIRPTA rules will not apply to distributions to a Foreign Owner with respect to any class of our common stock so long as (i) such class of stock is regularly traded (as defined by applicable Treasury Regulations) on an established securities market, and (ii) the Foreign Owner owns (actually or constructively) no more than 10% of such class of stock at any time during the one-year period ending with the date of the distribution. However, if FIRPTA were not to apply to a distribution to a Foreign Owner for the reason described in the preceding sentence, the distribution would be subject to the withholding rules applicable to ordinary dividend distributions.

*Dispositions of Our Stock*

Unless our common stock constitutes a USRPI, a sale of our common stock by a Foreign Owner generally will not be subject to U.S. federal income tax under FIRPTA. We do not expect that our common stock will constitute a USRPI. Our common stock will not constitute a USRPI if less than 50% of our assets throughout a prescribed testing period consist of interests in real property located within the United States, excluding, for this purpose, interest in real property solely in the capacity as a creditor. Even if the foregoing test is not met, our common stock will not constitute a USRPI if we are a domestically controlled REIT. A domestically controlled REIT is a REIT in which, at all times during a specified testing period, less than 50% in value of its shares is held directly or indirectly by foreign owners. We believe that we will be a domestically controlled REIT and that a sale of our stock should not be subject to taxation under FIRPTA. However, we do not intend to maintain records to determine whether we are a domestically controlled REIT for this purpose and no assurance can be given that we are or will remain a domestically controlled REIT.

Even if we do not constitute a domestically controlled REIT, a Foreign Owner's sale of a class of our common stock generally will still not be subject to tax under FIRPTA as a sale of a USRPI provided that (i) such class of stock is regularly traded (as defined by applicable Treasury Regulations) on an established securities market and (ii) the selling Foreign Owner has owned (actually or constructively) 10% or less of the outstanding shares of such class of

stock at all times during a specified testing period.

If gain on the sale of our common stock were subject to taxation under FIRPTA, the Foreign Owner would generally be subject to the same treatment as a Domestic Owner with respect to such gain (subject to applicable



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alternative minimum tax and a special alternative minimum tax in the case of nonresident alien individuals) and the purchaser of the common stock could be required to withhold 10% (15% for dispositions occurring on or after February 16, 2016) of the purchase price and remit such amount to the IRS.

Capital gains not subject to FIRPTA will nonetheless be taxable in the United States to a Foreign Owner in two cases. First, if the Foreign Owner's investment in our common stock is effectively connected with a U.S. trade or business conducted by such Foreign Owner, the Foreign Owner will generally be subject to the same treatment as a Domestic Owner with respect to such gain. Second, if the Foreign Owner is a nonresident alien individual who was present in the United States for 183 days or more during the taxable year and has a tax home in the United States, the nonresident alien individual will be subject to a 30% tax on the individual's capital gain.

### *Estate Tax*

Our common stock owned or treated as owned by an individual who is not a citizen or resident of the United States (as specially defined for U.S. federal estate tax purposes) at the time of death will be includible in the individual's gross estate for U.S. federal estate tax purposes, unless an applicable estate tax treaty provides otherwise. Such individual's estate may be subject to U.S. federal estate tax on the property includible in the estate for U.S. federal estate tax purposes.

### *Information Reporting and Backup Withholding*

Under current Treasury Regulations, information reporting and backup withholding will not apply to payments on the common stock made by us or our paying agent (in its capacity as such) to you if you have provided the required certification that you are a Foreign Owner, provided that neither we nor our paying agent has actual knowledge or reason to know that you are a Domestic Owner. However, we or our paying agent may be required to report to the IRS and you payments of dividends on our common stock and the amount of tax, if any, withheld with respect to those payments. Copies of the information returns reporting such payments and any withholding may also be made available to the tax authorities in the country in which you reside under the provisions of a treaty or agreement. The gross proceeds from the disposition of your common stock may be subject to information reporting and backup withholding tax (currently at a maximum rate of 28%). If you sell your common stock outside the United States through a non-U.S. office of a non-U.S. broker and the sales proceeds are paid to you outside the United States, then the U.S. information reporting and backup withholding requirements generally will not apply to that payment. However, U.S. information reporting, but not backup withholding, will apply to a payment of sales proceeds, even if that payment is made outside the United States, if you sell your common stock through a non-U.S. office of a broker that:

is a U.S. person;

derives 50% or more of its gross income in specific periods from the conduct of a trade or business in the United States;

is a controlled foreign corporation for U.S. federal income tax purposes; or

is a foreign partnership, if at any time during its tax year:

one or more of its partners are U.S. persons who in the aggregate hold more than 50% of the income or capital interests in the partnership; or

the foreign partnership is engaged in a U.S. trade or business, unless the broker has documentary evidence in its files that you are a Foreign Owner and certain other conditions are met or you otherwise establish an exemption. If you receive payment of the proceeds of a sale of your common stock to or through a U.S. office of a broker, the payment is subject to both U.S. backup withholding and information reporting unless you provide an IRS Form W-8BEN certifying that you are a Foreign Owner or you otherwise establish an exemption, provided that the broker does not have actual knowledge or reason to know that you are not a Foreign Owner or the conditions of any other exemption are not, in fact, satisfied.

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You are encouraged to consult your own tax advisor regarding application of backup withholding in your particular circumstance and the availability of and procedure for obtaining an exemption from backup withholding under current Treasury Regulations. Any amounts withheld under the backup withholding rules from a payment to you will be allowed as a refund or credit against your U.S. federal income tax liability, provided the required information is timely furnished to the IRS.

## **Other Tax Consequences**

### *Possible Legislative or Other Actions Affecting Tax Consequences*

Prospective investors should recognize that the present U.S. federal income tax treatment of an investment in our common stock may be modified by legislative, judicial or administrative action at any time and that any such action may affect investments and commitments previously made. The rules dealing with U.S. federal income taxation are constantly under review by persons involved in the legislative process and by the IRS and Treasury Department, resulting in revisions of regulations and revised interpretations of established concepts as well as statutory changes. Revisions in U.S. federal tax laws and interpretations thereof could adversely affect the tax consequences of an investment in our common stock.

### *Foreign Account Tax Compliance Act*

U.S. tax legislation enacted in 2010, the Foreign Account Tax Compliance Act, or FATCA, and subsequent IRS guidance regarding the implementation of FATCA, provides that 30% U.S. federal withholding tax will be imposed on distributions to, and, after December 31, 2018, the gross proceeds from a sale of shares to, a foreign entity if such entity fails to satisfy certain due diligence, disclosure and reporting rules. In the event of noncompliance with the FATCA requirements, as set forth in Treasury Regulations, withholding at a rate of 30% on distributions in respect of our stock and gross proceeds from the sale of our stock held by or through such foreign entities would be imposed. Non-U.S. Persons that are otherwise eligible for an exemption from, or a reduction of, U.S. withholding tax with respect to such distributions and sale proceeds would be required to seek a refund from the IRS to obtain the benefit of such exemption or reduction. We will not pay any additional amounts in respect of any amounts withheld (under FATCA or otherwise). Additional requirements and conditions may be imposed pursuant to an intergovernmental agreement (if and when entered into) between the United States and the non-U.S. Person's home jurisdiction. Prospective investors are urged to consult with their tax advisors regarding the application of these rules to an investment in our stock.

### *State and Local Taxes*

We and our stockholders may be subject to state or local taxation in various state or local jurisdictions, including those in which we or they transact business or reside. The state and local tax treatment may not conform to the U.S. federal income tax consequences discussed above. Consequently, prospective investors should consult their own tax advisors regarding the effect of state and local tax laws on an investment in our common stock.

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**PLAN OF DISTRIBUTION**

We may sell the securities offered pursuant to this prospectus and any accompanying prospectus supplements to or through one or more underwriters or dealers, or we may sell the securities to investors directly or through agents. Each prospectus supplement, to the extent applicable, will describe the number and terms of the securities to which such prospectus supplement relates, the name or names of any underwriters or agents with whom we have entered into arrangements with respect to the sale of such securities, the public offering or purchase price of such securities, the net proceeds we will receive from such sale and any discounts or concessions allowed or re-allowed or paid to dealers. Any underwriter or agent involved in the offer and sale of the securities will be named in the applicable prospectus supplement. We may sell securities directly to investors on our own behalf in those jurisdictions where we are authorized to do so.

Underwriters may offer and sell the securities at a fixed price or prices, which may be changed, at market prices prevailing at the time of sale, at prices related to the prevailing market prices or at negotiated prices. We also may, from time to time, authorize dealers or agents to offer and sell these securities upon such terms and conditions as may be set forth in the applicable prospectus supplement. In connection with the sale of any of these securities, underwriters may receive compensation from us in the form of underwriting discounts or commissions and may also receive commissions from purchasers of the securities for whom they may act as agent. Underwriters may sell the securities to or through dealers, and such dealers may receive compensation in the form of discounts, concessions or commissions from the underwriters or commissions from the purchasers for which they may act as agents.

Shares may also be sold in one or more of the following transactions: (a) block transactions (which may involve crosses) in which a broker-dealer may sell all or a portion of the shares as agent but may position and resell all or a portion of the block as principal to facilitate the transaction; (b) purchases by a broker-dealer as principal and resale by the broker-dealer for its own account pursuant to a prospectus supplement; (c) a special offering, an exchange distribution or a secondary distribution in accordance with applicable New York Stock Exchange or other stock exchange rules; (d) ordinary brokerage transactions and transactions in which a broker-dealer solicits purchasers; (e) sales at the market to or through a market maker or into an existing trading market, on an exchange or otherwise, for shares; and (f) sales in other ways not involving market makers or established trading markets, including direct sales to purchasers. Broker-dealers may also receive compensation from purchasers of the shares, which is not expected to exceed that customary in the types of transactions involved.

Any underwriting compensation paid by us to underwriters or agents in connection with the offering of these securities, and any discounts or concessions or commissions allowed by underwriters to participating dealers, will be set forth in the applicable prospectus supplement. Dealers and agents participating in the distribution of the securities may be deemed to be underwriters, and any discounts and commissions received by them and any profit realized by them on resale of the securities may be deemed to be underwriting discounts and commissions.

Underwriters, dealers and agents may be entitled, under agreements entered into with us, to indemnification against and contribution toward certain civil liabilities, including liabilities under the Securities Act of 1933. Unless otherwise set forth in the accompanying prospectus supplement, the obligations of any underwriters to purchase any of these securities will be subject to certain conditions precedent.

In connection with the offering of the securities hereby, certain underwriters, and selling group members and their respective affiliates, may engage in transactions that stabilize, maintain or otherwise affect the market price of the applicable securities. These transactions may include stabilization transactions effected in accordance with Rule 104 of Regulation M promulgated by the SEC pursuant to which these persons may bid for or purchase securities for the purpose of stabilizing their market price.



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The underwriters in an offering of securities may also create a short position for their account by selling more securities in connection with the offering than they are committed to purchase from us. In that case, the underwriters could cover all or a portion of the short position by either purchasing securities in the open market following completion of the offering of these securities or by exercising any over-allotment option granted to them by us. In addition, the managing underwriter may impose penalty bids under contractual arrangements with other underwriters, which means that they can reclaim from an underwriter (or any selling group member participating in the offering) for the account of the other underwriters, the selling concession for the securities that are distributed in the offering but subsequently purchased for the account of the underwriters in the open market. Any of the transactions described in this paragraph or comparable transactions that are described in any accompanying prospectus supplement may result in the maintenance of the price of the securities at a level above that which might otherwise prevail in the open market. None of the transactions described in this paragraph or in an accompanying prospectus supplement are required to be taken by any underwriters and, if they are undertaken, may be discontinued at any time.

Our common stock is listed on the New York Stock Exchange under the symbol CIM. All other securities offered hereby will be new issues of securities with no established trading market and may or may not be listed on a national securities exchange. Any underwriters or agents to or through which securities are sold by us may make a market in the securities, but these underwriters or agents will not be obligated to do so and any of them may discontinue any market making at any time without notice. No assurance can be given as to the liquidity of or trading market for any securities sold by us.

Underwriters, dealers and agents may engage in transactions with, or perform services for, us and our affiliates in the ordinary course of business. Underwriters have from time to time in the past provided, and may from time to time in the future provide, investment banking services to us for which they have in the past received, and may in the future receive, customary fees.

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**EXPERTS**

The consolidated financial statements of Chimera Investment Corporation appearing in Chimera Investment Corporation's Annual Report (Form 10-K) for the year ended December 31, 2014, and the effectiveness of Chimera Investment Corporation's internal control over financial reporting as of December 31, 2014, have been audited by Ernst & Young LLP, independent registered public accounting firm, as set forth in their reports thereon included therein, and incorporated herein by reference. Such financial statements are, and audited financial statements to be included in subsequently filed documents will be, incorporated herein in reliance upon the reports of Ernst & Young LLP pertaining to such financial statements and the effectiveness of our internal control over financial reporting as of the respective dates (to the extent covered by consents filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission) given on the authority of such firm as experts in accounting and auditing.

**LEGAL MATTERS**

The validity of the securities offered hereby is being passed upon for us by K&L Gates LLP. The opinion of counsel described under the heading "Material U.S. Federal Income Tax Considerations" is being rendered by K&L Gates LLP. This opinion is subject to various assumptions and is based on current tax law.

**WHERE YOU CAN FIND MORE INFORMATION**

We file annual, quarterly, and current reports, proxy statements and other information with the SEC. You may read and copy any reports or other information that we file with the SEC at the SEC's Public Reference Room located at 100 F Street, N.E., Washington D.C. 20549. You may also receive copies of these documents upon payment of a duplicating fee, by writing to the SEC's Public Reference Room. Please call the SEC at 1-800-SEC-0330 for further information on the Public Reference Room in Washington D.C. and other locations. Our SEC filings, including our registration statement, are also available to you, free of charge, on the SEC's website at [www.sec.gov](http://www.sec.gov). Finally, we also maintain an Internet site where you can find additional information. The address of our Internet site is <http://www.chimerareit.com>. All internet addresses provided in this prospectus or in any accompanying prospectus supplement are for informational purposes only and are not intended to be hyperlinks. In addition, the information on our internet site is not a part of, and is not incorporated or deemed to be incorporated by reference in, this prospectus or any accompanying prospectus supplement or other offering materials. Accordingly, no information in our or any of these other internet addresses is included herein or incorporated or deemed to be incorporated by reference herein.

We have filed a registration statement, of which this prospectus is a part, covering the securities offered hereby. As allowed by SEC rules, this prospectus does not contain all of the information set forth in the registration statement and the exhibits, financial statements and schedules thereto. We refer you to the registration statement, the exhibits, financial statements and schedules thereto for further information. This prospectus is qualified in its entirety by such other information.

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**INCORPORATION OF CERTAIN DOCUMENTS BY REFERENCE**

The SEC allows us to incorporate by reference information into this prospectus, which means that we can disclose important information to you by referring you to another document filed separately with the SEC. The information incorporated by reference is deemed to be part of this prospectus, except for any information superseded by information in this prospectus. We have filed the documents listed below with the SEC (File No. 1-33796) under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended (Exchange Act), and these documents are incorporated herein by reference:

Our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2014, filed on March 2, 2015;

Our Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the quarterly period ended March 31, 2015, filed on May 11, 2015;

Our Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the quarterly period ended June 30, 2015, filed on August 7, 2015;

Our Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the quarterly period ended September, 2015, filed on November 5, 2015;

Our Current Reports on Form 8-K, filed on April 6, 2015, May 21, 2015; August 5, 2015, September 25, 2015, October 23, 2015, December 11, 2015, and January 21, 2016; and

The description of our common stock, par value \$0.01 per share, included in our Registration Statement on Form 8-A, filed on November 5, 2007.

All documents we file pursuant to Sections 13(a), 13(c), 14 or 15(d) of the Exchange Act after the date of this prospectus and before the termination of the offering of the securities to which this prospectus relates (other than information in such documents that is not deemed to be filed) shall be deemed to be incorporated by reference into this prospectus and to be part hereof from the date of filing of those documents. All documents we file pursuant to Sections 13(a), 13(c), 14 or 15(d) of the Exchange Act after the date of the initial registration statement that contains this prospectus and before the effectiveness of the registration statement shall be deemed to be incorporated by reference into this prospectus and to be part hereof from the date of filing those documents.

Any statement contained in this prospectus or in a document incorporated by reference shall be deemed to be modified or superseded for all purposes to the extent that a statement contained in this prospectus or in any other document which is also incorporated by reference modifies or supersedes that statement.

We will provide to each person, including any beneficial owner, to whom a copy of this prospectus is delivered, a copy of any or all of the information that has been incorporated by reference in this prospectus but not delivered with this prospectus (other than the exhibits to such documents, which are not specifically incorporated by reference herein); we will provide this information at no cost to the requester upon written or oral request to Investor Relations, Chimera Investment Corporation, 520 Madison Ave., 32<sup>nd</sup> Floor, New York, New York 10022, telephone number (212) 626-2300.





**Table of Contents**

**Shares**

**% Series A Cumulative Redeemable Preferred Stock**

**PROSPECTUS SUPPLEMENT**

**October , 2016**

**Morgan Stanley**

**UBS Investment Bank**

**Keefe, Bruyette & Woods**

*A Stifel Company*

**RBC Capital Markets**