

EQUITY LIFESTYLE PROPERTIES INC

Form 424B5

October 26, 2018

Table of Contents

**CALCULATION OF REGISTRATION FEE**

<b>Title of Securities to be Registered</b>	<b>Proposed Maximum Aggregate Offering Price<sup>(1)</sup></b>	<b>Amount of Registration Fee<sup>(1)(3)</sup></b>
Common Stock, par value \$.01 per share <sup>(2)</sup>	\$200,000,000	\$24,240.00

- (1) Calculated pursuant to Rule 457(o) and in accordance with Rule 457(r) under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, or the Securities Act. Payment of the registration fee at the time of filing of the registrant's registration statement on Form S-3ASR, filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission on November 2, 2017 (File No. 333-221299) (the Registration Statement), was deferred pursuant to Rules 456(b) and 457(r) under the Securities Act, and is paid herewith. This Calculation of Registration Fee table shall be deemed to update the Calculation of Registration Fee table in the Registration Statement.
- (2) There is being registered hereunder such indeterminate number or amount of common stock, par value \$0.01 per share, of Equity Lifestyle Properties, Inc. as may from time to time be issued or sold at indeterminate prices, with an aggregate offering price not to exceed \$200,000,000.
- (3) Pursuant to Rule 457(p) under the Securities Act, the registrant is offsetting the registration fee of \$24,240 due under this Registration Statement by \$8,866.15 of the \$24,900 registration fee that was previously paid with respect to securities of the registrant with a maximum aggregate offering price of \$200,000,000 that were previously registered pursuant to the Registration Statement, of which an aggregate offering price of \$71,214,039.68 was not sold.

Table of Contents

**Filed Pursuant to Rule 424(b)(5)  
Registration No. 333-221299**

**PROSPECTUS SUPPLEMENT**

**(To prospectus dated November 2, 2017)**

**\$200,000,000**

**EQUITY LIFESTYLE PROPERTIES, INC.**

**Common Stock**

This prospectus supplement relates to the offer and sale from time to time of shares of our common stock, \$0.01 par value per share, having an aggregate offering price of up to \$200,000,000 through Morgan Stanley & Co. LLC, Goldman Sachs & Co. LLC, Merrill Lynch, Pierce, Fenner & Smith Incorporated, SunTrust Robinson Humphrey, Inc. and Wells Fargo Securities, LLC, each of which we refer to individually as a sales agent and together as the sales agents. These sales, if any, will be made pursuant to the terms of the equity distribution agreements between us and the sales agents.

Our common stock is listed on the New York Stock Exchange, or the NYSE, under the symbol ELS. The last reported sale price of our common stock on the NYSE on October 25, 2018 was \$98.00 per share.

Sales of shares of our common stock, if any, under this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus may be made in negotiated transactions or transactions that are deemed to be at the market offerings as defined in Rule 415 under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, or the Securities Act, including sales made directly on the NYSE, the existing trading market for shares of our common stock, or sales made to or through a market maker. From time to time during the term of the equity distribution agreements, in connection with the sales agents acting as our agents, we may deliver an issuance notice to one of the sales agents establishing a selling period and specifying with respect to the selling period the length of the selling period, the amount of shares to be sold and the minimum price per share below which sales may not be made. We will not submit more than one issuance notice relating to the sale of shares of our common stock on any given day. Upon acceptance of an issuance notice from us, and subject to the terms and conditions of the respective equity distribution agreement, if acting as agent, each sales agent agrees to use, when acting as agent, its commercially reasonable efforts consistent with its normal trading and sales practices to sell shares of our common stock on the terms set forth in such issuance notice. We or the sales agent then acting as our agent may suspend the offering of our shares at any time upon proper notice to the other, upon which the selling period will immediately terminate.

Under the terms of the equity distribution agreements, we may also sell shares of our common stock to a sales agent, as principal for its own account, at a price to be agreed upon at the time of sale. If we sell shares of our common stock to a sales agent, as principal, we will enter into a separate agreement with that sales agent and we will describe such agreement in a separate prospectus supplement.



**Table of Contents**

**TABLE OF CONTENTS**  
**PROSPECTUS SUPPLEMENT**

<u>About This Prospectus Supplement</u>	S-iii
<u>Summary</u>	S-1
<u>The Offering</u>	S-3
<u>Risk Factors</u>	S-4
<u>Cautionary Note Regarding Forward-Looking Statements</u>	S-7
<u>Use of Proceeds</u>	S-8
<u>Plan of Distribution</u>	S-9
<u>Legal Matters</u>	S-11
<u>Experts</u>	S-11
<u>Where You Can Find More Information</u>	S-11
<u>Incorporation of Certain Documents by Reference</u>	S-12

**PROSPECTUS**

<u>About this Prospectus</u>	1
<u>Information about Equity Lifestyle Properties, Inc.</u>	2
<u>Risk Factors</u>	4
<u>Cautionary Note Regarding Forward-Looking Statements</u>	5
<u>Use of Proceeds</u>	7
<u>Ratio of Earnings to Combined Fixed Charges and Preferred Stock Dividends</u>	8
<u>Description of Common Stock</u>	9
<u>Description of Preferred Stock</u>	12
<u>Description of Depositary Shares</u>	18
<u>Description of Warrants</u>	21
<u>Description of Rights</u>	23
<u>Description of Purchase Contracts</u>	24
<u>Description of Units</u>	25
<u>Certain Provisions of Maryland Law and of our Charter and Bylaws</u>	26
<u>The Operating Partnership Agreement</u>	30
<u>Material U.S. Federal Income Tax Considerations</u>	32
<u>Plan of Distribution</u>	55
<u>Legal Matters</u>	57
<u>Experts</u>	58

<u>Where You Can Find More Information</u>	59
<u>Incorporation of Certain Documents by Reference</u>	60

**Table of Contents**

**You should read this prospectus supplement, the accompanying prospectus and the additional information described under the headings *Where You Can Find More Information* and *Incorporation of Certain Documents by Reference* before you make a decision to invest in shares of our common stock. You should rely only on the information contained or incorporated by reference in this prospectus supplement, the accompanying prospectus and any related free writing prospectus required to be filed with the SEC. Neither we nor the sales agents are making an offer to sell shares of our common stock in any jurisdiction where the offer or sale is not permitted. Neither we nor the sales agents have authorized any other person to provide you with different or additional information. If any other person provides you with different or additional information, you should not rely on it. You should assume that the information in this prospectus supplement, the accompanying prospectus, any such free writing prospectus and the documents incorporated by reference herein or therein is accurate only as of its date or the date that is specified in those documents. Our business, financial condition, cash flows, liquidity, results of operations, funds from operations and prospects may have changed from any such date.**

**Table of Contents**

**ABOUT THIS PROSPECTUS SUPPLEMENT**

This document is in two parts. The first part is this prospectus supplement, which describes the specific terms of this offering and also adds to and updates information contained in the accompanying prospectus and the documents incorporated by reference herein and therein. The second part is the accompanying prospectus, which gives more general information, some of which may not apply to this offering.

To the extent there is a conflict between the information contained in this prospectus supplement, on the one hand, and the information contained in or incorporated by reference in the accompanying prospectus, on the other hand, the information in this prospectus supplement shall control.

References in this prospectus supplement to the terms we, us, our and our company refer to Equity LifeStyle Properties, Inc. and all entities owned or controlled by Equity LifeStyle Properties, Inc., including MHC Operating Limited Partnership, our Operating Partnership.

**Table of Contents**

**SUMMARY**

*This summary description of us, our business and our common stock highlights selected information contained elsewhere in this prospectus supplement or the accompanying prospectus or the documents incorporated by reference herein and therein. This summary does not contain all of the information that you should consider before making a decision to invest in shares of our common stock in this offering. You should carefully read this entire prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus, including each of the documents incorporated by reference herein and therein, before making an investment decision. See *Where You Can Find More Information* and *Incorporation of Certain Documents by Reference*.*

**Company Overview**

***General***

We were formed in December 1992 as a Maryland corporation to continue the property operations, business objectives and acquisition strategies of an entity that had owned and operated properties since 1969. We have been a public company since 1993 and have elected to be taxed as a real estate investment trust, or a REIT, for U.S. federal income tax purposes commencing with our taxable year ended December 31, 1993.

We are a fully integrated owner and operator of lifestyle-oriented properties, or Properties, consisting primarily of manufactured home, or MH, communities and recreational vehicle, or RV, resorts and campgrounds. We lease individual developed areas, or Sites, with access to utilities for placement of factory built homes, cottages, cabins or RVs.

We have a unique business model where we own the land upon which we provide our customers the opportunity to place factory built homes, cottages, cabins or RVs, either on a long-term or short-term basis. Our customers may lease Sites or enter right-to-use contracts which provide them access to specific Properties for limited stays. Compared to other types of real estate companies, our business model is characterized by low maintenance costs as well as low customer turnover costs. Our portfolio is spread through highly desirable locations with a focus on both retirement and vacation destinations. Our properties attract retirees, vacationing families and second homeowners, while providing a lower cost home ownership alternative. We have more than 90 Properties with lake, river or ocean frontage and more than 100 Properties within 10 miles of the coastal United States.

We are one of the nation's largest real estate networks with a portfolio, as of September 30, 2018, of 411 Properties consisting of 153,847 residential Sites located throughout the United States and Canada. These Properties are located in 32 states and British Columbia.

Our Properties are designed and improved for home options of various sizes and designs that are produced off-site by third-party manufacturers, installed and set on designated Sites, or Site Set, within the Properties. These homes can range from 400 to over 2,000 square feet. Properties may also have Sites that can accommodate a variety of RVs. Properties generally contain centralized entrances, internal road systems and designated Sites. In addition, Properties often provide a clubhouse for social activities and recreation and other amenities, which may include swimming pools, shuffleboard courts, tennis courts, pickleball courts, golf courses, lawn bowling, restaurants, laundry facilities, cable television and internet service. Some Properties provide utilities, including water and sewer service, through municipal or regulated utilities, while others provide these services to customers from on-site facilities.

Our Properties are primarily owned by our Operating Partnership and managed internally by affiliates of our Operating Partnership. We are the general partner of the Operating Partnership. The financial results of the Operating



Partnership and our subsidiaries are consolidated in our consolidated financial statements. In addition, since certain activities, if performed by us, may not be qualifying REIT activities under the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended, or the Code, we have formed taxable REIT subsidiaries, as defined in the Code, to engage in such activities.

S-1

**Table of Contents**

Our primary business objective is to maximize both current and long-term income growth. Our operating strategy is to own and operate the highest quality Properties in sought-after locations near retirement and vacation destinations and urban areas across the United States.

We focus on Properties that have strong cash flow and plan to hold such Properties for long-term investment and capital appreciation. In determining cash flow potential, we evaluate our ability to attract high quality customers to our Properties and retain these customers who take pride in the Property and in their homes. Our operating, investment and financing strategies include:

Consistently providing high levels of services and amenities in attractive surroundings to foster a strong sense of community and pride of home ownership;

Efficiently managing the Properties to increase operating margins by increasing occupancy, maintaining competitive market rents and controlling expenses;

Increasing income and property values by strategic expansion and, where appropriate, renovation of the Properties;

Utilizing technology to evaluate potential acquisitions, identify and track competing properties and monitor existing and prospective customer satisfaction;

Selectively acquiring properties that have potential for long-term cash flow growth and creating property concentrations in and around retirement or vacation destinations and major metropolitan areas to capitalize on operating synergies and incremental efficiencies;

Selecting joint venture partners that share business objectives, growth initiatives, and risk profiles similar to ours;

Managing our debt balances in order to maintain financial flexibility, minimize exposure to interest rate fluctuations and maintain an appropriate degree of leverage to maximize return on capital; and

Developing and maintaining relationships with various capital providers.

These business objectives and their implementation are consistent with business strategies determined by our Board of Directors and may be subject to change or amendment at any time.

***Principal Executive Offices and Website***

Our principal executive offices are located at Two North Riverside Plaza, Suite 800, Chicago, Illinois, 60606 and our telephone number is (312) 279-1400. We maintain a website at [www.equitylifestyleproperties.com](http://www.equitylifestyleproperties.com). Our reference to

our website is intended to be an inactive textual reference only. Information contained on our website is not, and should not be interpreted to be, part of, or incorporated by reference into, this prospectus supplement or the accompanying prospectus.

S-2

**Table of Contents**

**THE OFFERING**

For a description of our common stock, see **Description of Common Stock** in the accompanying prospectus.

**Common Stock Offered** Common stock par value, \$.01 per share, having an aggregate offering price of up to \$200,000,000.

**Common Stock and Operating Partnership Units Outstanding on October 19, 2018<sup>1</sup>** 89,747,439 shares of common stock and 5,746,382<sup>2</sup> operating partnership units.

**Use of Proceeds** We intend to use the net proceeds from any sales of shares of our common stock pursuant to this prospectus supplement for general corporate purposes, which may include the repayment of existing indebtedness, the development or acquisition of additional properties as suitable opportunities arise and the renovation, expansion and improvement of our existing Properties. See **Use of Proceeds**.

**Restrictions on Ownership and Transfer** Our charter contains restrictions on ownership and transfer of shares of our capital stock intended to assist us in maintaining our qualification as a REIT for U.S. federal income tax purposes. For example, our charter generally restricts any person from acquiring beneficial ownership, either directly or indirectly, of more than 5.0%, in value or number of shares, subject to certain adjustments, whichever is more restrictive, of our outstanding equity, as more fully described in the section entitled **Description of Common Stock** in the accompanying prospectus.

**Risk Factors** See **Risk Factors** beginning on page S-4 of this prospectus supplement, in **Part I Item 1A. Risk Factors** included in our most recent Annual Report on Form 10-K and **Part II Item 1A.** included in our most recent Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q, as well as additional risks that may be described in future reports or information that we file with the SEC, including our subsequent Quarterly Reports on Form 10-Q, which are incorporated by reference in this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus.

**NYSE Symbol** ELS.

<sup>1</sup> Unless expressly stated otherwise, the information set forth above and throughout this prospectus supplement excludes shares of our common stock issuable pursuant to options outstanding and shares of our common stock that may be issued in the future under our incentive plans.

<sup>2</sup> Excludes operating partnership units owned by us, which constitute approximately 94% of the outstanding operating partnership units.

S-3

**Table of Contents**

**RISK FACTORS**

*An investment in shares of our common stock involves risks. In consultation with your own financial and legal advisers, you should carefully consider, among other matters, the factors set forth below, as well as the risk factors discussed in Part I Item 1A. Risk Factors included in our most recent Annual Report on Form 10-K and Part II Item 1A. included in our most recent Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q, as well as additional risks that may be described in future reports or information that we file with the SEC, all of which are incorporated by reference into this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus, before making a decision to invest in shares of our common stock in this offering. If any of the risks contained in or incorporated by reference into this prospectus supplement or the accompanying prospectus are realized, our business, financial condition, cash flows, liquidity, results of operations, funds from operations and prospects could be materially and adversely affected, the market price of our common stock could decline and you may lose all or part of your investment.*

***Volatility in the capital markets could materially and adversely impact us.***

The capital markets may experience volatility and disruption from time to time, which could make it more difficult to borrow money or raise equity capital. Market volatility and disruption could hinder our ability to obtain new debt financing or refinance our maturing debt on favorable terms or at all. In addition, our future access to the equity markets could be limited. Any such financing or refinancing issues could materially and adversely affect us. Market turmoil and tightening of credit can also lead to an increased lack of consumer confidence and widespread reduction of business activity generally, which also could materially and adversely impact us, including our ability to acquire and dispose of assets on favorable terms or at all. Any volatility in capital markets may also have a material adverse effect on the market price of our common stock.

***This offering may be dilutive.***

Giving effect to the issuance of shares of our common stock in this offering, the receipt of the expected net proceeds and the use of those proceeds, we expect that this offering may have a dilutive effect on our earnings per share and funds from operations per share for the quarters and years in which we issue shares in this offering. Any amount of dilution cannot be determined at this time and will depend on numerous factors.

Additionally, we are not restricted from issuing additional securities, including common stock, securities that are convertible into or exchangeable or exercisable for shares of common stock or preferred stock or any substantially similar securities in the future. Future issuances or sales of substantial amounts of our common stock may be at prices below the offering price of the common stock offered by this prospectus supplement and may result in further dilution in our earnings per share and funds from operations per share and/or adversely impact the market price of our common stock.

***Future sales or issuances of our common stock, or securities that rank senior to our common stock, may cause the market price of our common stock to decline.***

The sale of substantial amounts of our common stock, whether directly by us or in the secondary market, the perception that such sales could occur or the availability for future sales of shares of our common stock or securities convertible into or exchangeable or exercisable for shares of our common stock could materially and adversely affect the market price of our common stock and our ability to raise capital through future offerings of equity or equity-related securities. We are not required to offer any such shares to existing stockholders on a preemptive basis. Therefore, it may not be possible for existing stockholders to participate in such future share issuances, which may dilute the existing stockholders' interests in us.

In addition, we may issue capital stock that is senior to our common stock in the future for a number of reasons, including to finance our operations and business strategy, to adjust our ratio of debt to equity, to satisfy obligations upon the exchange of units of our Operating Partnership or the exercise of options or for other reasons.

We cannot predict whether future sales or issuances of shares of shares of our common stock, including sales pursuant to the equity distribution agreements, securities that rank senior to our common stock, or the availability of shares for resale in the open market will decrease the market price per share of our common stock.

S-4

**Table of Contents**

*We have broad discretion in using the proceeds from this offering, and our investment of such proceeds may not yield a favorable return.*

Our management has broad discretion to use the proceeds from this offering in ways with which you may not agree. The failure of our management to apply these funds effectively could result in unfavorable returns. This could harm our business and could cause the market value of our common stock to decline.

*The market price of our common stock may fluctuate significantly.*

The stock markets, including the NYSE, on which we list our common stock, have experienced significant price and volume fluctuations. As a result, the market price of our common stock could be subject to similar volatility, and investors in our common stock may experience a decrease in the value of their shares, including decreases unrelated to our operating performance or prospects. The market price of our common stock may fluctuate significantly in response to many factors, including, but not limited to:

our operating performance and the performance of other similar companies;

actual or anticipated variations in our operating results, funds from operations, cash flows or liquidity;

changes in our earnings or funds from operations estimates or those of analysts and any failure to meet such estimates;

changes in our dividend policy;

publication of research reports about us or the real estate industry generally;

increases in market interest rates that lead purchasers of our common stock to demand a higher dividend yield;

changes in market valuations of similar companies;

adverse market reaction to the amount of our outstanding debt at any time, the amount of our maturing debt in the near-and medium-term and our ability to refinance such debt and the terms thereof, or our plans to incur additional debt in the future;

additions or departures of key management personnel, including our ability to find desired replacements;



Edgar Filing: EQUITY LIFESTYLE PROPERTIES INC - Form 424B5

actual or expected strategic decisions by us or our competitors, such as acquisitions, divestitures, spin-offs, joint ventures, strategic investments or actual or expected changes in business strategy;

the passage of legislation or other regulatory developments that adversely affect us or our industry;

actions by our stockholders;

speculation in the press or investment community;

changes in accounting principle;

terrorist attacks;

the realization of any of the other risk factors included or incorporated by reference in this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus; and

general market and economic conditions, including factors unrelated to our performance.

S-5

**Table of Contents**

In the past, securities class action litigation has often been instituted against companies following periods of volatility in their stock price. This type of litigation could result in substantial costs and divert our management's attention and resources. Many of the factors listed above are beyond our control. Those factors may cause the market price of our common stock to decline significantly, regardless of our financial performance and condition and prospects. It is impossible to provide any assurance that the market price of our common stock will not fall in the future, and it may be difficult for holders to resell shares of our common stock at prices they find attractive, or at all.

S-6

**Table of Contents**

**CAUTIONARY NOTE REGARDING FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS**

This prospectus supplement, the accompanying prospectus, and the documents that are incorporated by reference herein and therein contain certain forward-looking statements within the meaning of the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995. When used, words such as anticipate, expect, believe, project, intend, may be and will similar words or phrases, or the negative thereof, unless the context requires otherwise, are intended to identify forward-looking statements and may include, without limitation, information regarding our expectations, goals or intentions regarding the future, and the expected effect of our acquisitions. These forward-looking statements are subject to numerous assumptions, risks and uncertainties, including, but not limited to:

our ability to control costs, real estate market conditions, the actual rate of decline in customers, the actual use of Sites by customers and our success in acquiring new customers at our Properties (including those that we may acquire);

our ability to maintain historical or increase future rental rates and occupancy with respect to Properties currently owned or that we may acquire;

our ability to retain and attract customers renewing, upgrading and entering right-to-use contracts;

our assumptions about rental and home sales markets;

our ability to manage counterparty risk;

our ability to renew our insurance policies at existing rates and on consistent terms;

in the age-qualified Properties, home sales results could be impacted by the ability of potential homebuyers to sell their existing residences as well as by financial, credit and capital markets volatility;

results from home sales and occupancy will continue to be impacted by local economic conditions, lack of affordable manufactured home financing and competition from alternative housing options including site-built single-family housing;

impact of government intervention to stabilize site-built single family housing and not manufactured housing;

effective integration of the recent acquisitions and our estimates regarding the future performance of the recent acquisitions;

the completion of future transactions in their entirety, if any, and timing and effective integration with respect thereto;

unanticipated costs or unforeseen liabilities associated with the recent acquisitions;

ability to obtain financing or refinance existing debt on favorable terms or at all;

the effect of interest rates;

the dilutive effects of issuing additional securities;

the effect of changes in accounting for Leases set forth under the Codification Topic *Leases* ;

the outcome of pending or future lawsuits or actions brought against us, including those disclosed in our filings with the SEC; and

other risks indicated from time to time in our filings with the SEC.

S-7

**Table of Contents**

For further information on these and other factors that could impact us and the statements contained herein, refer to our filings with the SEC, including Part I Item 1A. Risk Factors in our most recent Annual Report on Form 10-K and our subsequent Quarterly Reports on Form 10-Q.

These forward-looking statements are based on management's present expectations and beliefs about future events. As with any projection or forecast, these statements are inherently susceptible to uncertainty and changes in circumstances. We are under no obligation to, and expressly disclaim any obligation to, update or alter our forward-looking statements whether as a result of such changes, new information, subsequent events or otherwise.

**USE OF PROCEEDS**

We intend to use the net proceeds from any sales of shares of our common stock pursuant to this prospectus supplement for general corporate purposes, which may include the repayment of existing indebtedness, the development or acquisition of additional properties as suitable opportunities arise and the renovation, expansion and improvement of our existing Properties.

Table of Contents

**PLAN OF DISTRIBUTION**

We have entered into separate equity distribution agreements, each dated as of October 26, 2018, with each of Morgan Stanley & Co. LLC, Goldman Sachs & Co. LLC, Merrill Lynch, Pierce, Fenner & Smith Incorporated, Sun Trust Robinson Humphrey, Inc. and Wells Fargo Securities, LLC, or the sales agents, under which we may from time to time offer and sell common stock having an aggregate offering price of up to \$200,000,000. Sales of shares of our common stock, if any, under this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus may be made in negotiated transactions or transactions that are deemed to be at the market offerings, including sales made directly on the NYSE or sales made to or through a market maker other than on an exchange.

Upon its acceptance of written instructions from us, each sales agent will use its commercially reasonable efforts consistent with its normal trading and sales practices to solicit offers to purchase shares of our common stock under the terms and subject to the conditions set forth in the applicable equity distribution agreement. We will instruct each sales agent as to the amount of common stock to be sold by it. We may instruct the sales agents not to sell shares of our common stock if the sales cannot be effected at or above the price designated by us in any instruction. We or the sales agents may suspend the offering of shares of our common stock upon proper notice and subject to other conditions.

The relevant sales agent will provide written confirmation to us no later than the opening of the trading day on the NYSE on the day following the trading day in which shares of our common stock were sold under the equity distribution agreement. Each confirmation will include the number of shares sold on the preceding day, the net proceeds to us and the compensation payable by us to the sales agent in connection with the sales.

We will pay each sales agent commissions for its services in acting as agent and/or principal in the sale of shares of our common stock. The sales agents will be entitled to compensation that will not exceed 2.0% of the gross sales price of all common stock sold through them when acting as our agent from time to time under the equity distribution agreements. Under the terms of the equity distribution agreements, we may also sell shares of our common stock to a sales agent, as principal for its own account, at a price to be agreed upon at the time of sale. We estimate that the total expenses for the offering, excluding compensation payable to the sales agents under the terms of the equity distribution agreements, will be approximately \$250,000. We have agreed to reimburse the sales agents for certain expenses in certain circumstances as set forth in the equity distribution agreements.

Settlement for sales of shares of our common stock will occur on the second trading day following the date on which any sales are made, or on some other date that is agreed upon by us and the sales agents in connection with a particular transaction, in return for payment of the net proceeds to us. There is no arrangement for funds to be received in an escrow, trust or similar arrangement.

The offering of the shares of our common stock by the sales agents is subject to the sales agents' right to reject any order in whole or in part. We will report at least quarterly the number of shares of our common stock sold through the sales agents under the equity distribution agreements, the net proceeds to us and the compensation paid by us to the sales agents in connection with the sales of shares of our common stock.

The sales agents and their affiliates have provided, and may in the future provide, various investment banking, commercial banking, fiduciary and advisory services for us from time to time for which they have received, and may in the future receive, customary fees and expenses. Affiliates of Morgan Stanley & Co. LLC, Goldman Sachs & Co. LLC and SunTrust Robinson Humphrey, Inc. are lenders, an affiliate of Wells Fargo Securities, LLC is a lender and administrative agent and Merrill Lynch, Pierce, Fenner & Smith Incorporated is a lender and syndication agent, under one or more of our credit facilities. Such affiliates of the sales agents will receive a *pro rata* portion of any net

proceeds from this offering used to reduce amounts that may be outstanding from time to time under such loans.

Some of the sales agents and their respective affiliates have engaged in, and may in the future engage in, investment banking, commercial banking and other commercial dealings in the ordinary course of business with us or our affiliates. They have received, or may in the future receive, customary fees and commissions for these transactions.

S-9

**Table of Contents**

In addition, in the ordinary course of their business activities, the sales agents and their respective affiliates may make or hold a broad array of investments and actively trade debt and equity securities (or related derivative securities) and financial instruments (including bank loans) for their own account and for the accounts of their customers. Such investments and securities activities may involve securities and/or instruments of ours or our affiliates. The sales agents and their respective affiliates may also make investment recommendations and/or publish or express independent research views in respect of such securities or financial instruments and may hold, or recommend to clients that they acquire, long and/or short positions in such securities and instruments.

In connection with the sale of shares of our common stock on our behalf, the sales agents may be deemed to be underwriters within the meaning of the Securities Act, and the compensation of the sales agents may be deemed to be underwriting commissions or discounts. We have agreed to indemnify the sales agents against specified liabilities, including liabilities under the Securities Act, or to contribute to payments that the sales agents may be required to make because of those liabilities.

The offering of shares of our common stock pursuant to the equity distribution agreements will terminate upon the earlier of (i) the sale of shares of our common stock with an aggregate gross sales price of \$200,000,000, or (ii) termination of the equity distribution agreements in accordance with their terms.



**Table of Contents**

**LEGAL MATTERS**

The validity of the shares of common stock offered by this prospectus supplement and certain federal income tax matters will be passed upon for us by Clifford Chance US LLP, New York, New York. Sidley Austin LLP, New York, New York will act as counsel to the sales agents.

**EXPERTS**

The consolidated financial statements of Equity LifeStyle Properties, Inc. appearing in Equity Lifestyle Properties, Inc.'s Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2017 (including the schedule appearing therein), and the effectiveness of Equity LifeStyle Properties, Inc.'s internal control over financial reporting as of December 31, 2017 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 consolidated financial statements are incorporated herein by reference in reliance upon such reports given on the authority of such firm as experts in accounting and auditing.

**WHERE YOU CAN FIND MORE INFORMATION**

We are subject to the informational requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended, or the Exchange Act, and, in accordance therewith, we file annual, quarterly and current reports, proxy statements and other information with the SEC. You may read and copy any reports, statements or other information we file at the SEC's public reference room located at 100 F Street, NE, Washington, D.C. 20549. Please call the SEC at 1-800-SEC-0330 for further information on the public reference room. Our SEC filings are also available to the public from commercial document retrieval services and at the website maintained by the SEC at <http://www.sec.gov>. We maintain a website at [www.equitylifestyleproperties.com](http://www.equitylifestyleproperties.com). Our reference to our website is intended to be an inactive textual reference only. Information contained on our website is not, and should not be interpreted to be, a part of this prospectus supplement or the accompanying prospectus. Our securities are listed on the NYSE and all such material filed by us with the NYSE also can be inspected at the offices of the NYSE, 20 Broad Street, New York, New York 10005.

We have filed with the SEC a registration statement on Form S-3ASR, of which this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus is a part, under the Securities Act with respect to the common stock offered hereby. This prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus does not contain all of the information set forth in the registration statement, certain parts of which are omitted in accordance with the rules and regulations of the SEC. For further information concerning us and the common stock, reference is made to the accompanying prospectus and the information incorporated by reference herein. Statements contained in this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus as to the contents of any contract or other document are not necessarily complete, and, in each instance, reference is made to the copy of such contract or document filed as an exhibit to the registration statement, each such statement being qualified in all respects by such reference.

**Table of Contents****INCORPORATION OF CERTAIN DOCUMENTS BY REFERENCE**

The SEC allows us to incorporate by reference into this prospectus supplement and the accompanying 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 supplement and the accompanying prospectus. This prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus incorporate by reference the documents set forth below that we have previously filed with the SEC (File No. 333-221299). These documents contain important information about us, our business and our finances.

**Document**

Annual Report on Form 10-K (File No. 001-11718)  
 Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q (File No. 001-11718)  
 Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q (File No. 001-11718)  
 Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q (File No. 001-11718)

**Period**

Year ended December 31, 2018  
 Quarter ended March 31, 2018  
 Quarter ended June 30, 2018  
 Quarter ended September 30, 2018

**Document**

Current Reports on Form 8-K (File No. 001-11718)

**Period**

January 30, 2018  
  
 (with respect to Items 5.02 and 8.01 only)  
  
 February 27, 2018 (with respect to Items 5.02, 5.03 and 8.01 and Exhibit 3.1 only)  
  
 March 12, 2018  
  
 March 16, 2018  
  
 May 2, 2018  
  
 August 1, 2018

**Document**

Definitive Proxy Statement on Schedule 14A (File No. 001-11718)

**Period**

March 15, 2018 (but only with respect to information required by Part III of our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2017)

**Document**

Description of our common stock in the Registration Statement on Form 8-A (File No. 001-11718)  
 Description of our common stock in the Registration Statement on Form 8-A/A (File No. 001-11718)

**Period**

February 9, 1993  
 February 22, 1993

## Edgar Filing: EQUITY LIFESTYLE PROPERTIES INC - Form 424B5

All documents that we file (but not those that we furnish) pursuant to Sections 13(a), 13(c), 14 or 15(d) of the Exchange Act, after the date of this prospectus supplement but before the end of any offering of securities made under this prospectus supplement will also be considered to be incorporated by reference into this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus.

If you request, either orally or in writing, we will provide you with a copy of any or all documents that are incorporated herein by reference. Such documents will be provided to you free of charge, but will not contain any exhibits, unless those exhibits are incorporated by reference into the document. Requests should be addressed to Equity LifeStyle Properties, Inc., Attention: Investor Relations, Two North Riverside Plaza, Suite 800, Chicago, Illinois 60606, telephone number: 1-800-247-5279, email: [investor\\_relations@equitylifestyle.com](mailto:investor_relations@equitylifestyle.com).

S-12

**Table of Contents**

**PROSPECTUS**

**Common Stock, Preferred Stock, Depositary Shares Representing Preferred Stock, Warrants, Rights, Purchase Contracts and Units**

We may from time to time offer, in one or more series or classes, separately or together, and in amounts, at prices and on terms to be set forth in one or more supplements to this prospectus, the following securities:

shares of common stock, par value \$0.01 per share;

shares of preferred stock, par value \$0.01 per share;

depositary shares representing entitlement to all rights and preferences of fractions of shares of preferred stock of a specified series and represented by depositary receipts;

warrants to purchase shares of common stock, preferred stock or depositary shares;

rights to purchase shares of common stock, preferred stock, depositary shares or other offered securities;

purchase contracts to purchase shares of common stock, preferred stock, depositary shares or other offered securities; or

units consisting of combinations of any of the foregoing, each on terms to be determined at the time of sale. We refer to the common stock, preferred stock, depositary shares, warrants, rights, purchase contracts and units collectively as the securities in this prospectus.

This prospectus describes some of the general terms that may apply to these securities and the general manner in which they may be offered. The specific terms of any securities to be offered, and the specific manner in which they may be offered, will be set forth in the applicable prospectus supplement. The prospectus supplement will also contain information, where applicable, about certain federal income tax considerations relating to, and any listing on a securities exchange of, the securities covered by such prospectus supplement. It is important that you read both this prospectus and the applicable prospectus supplement before you invest in the securities.

We may offer and sell these securities to or through one or more underwriters, dealers and agents, or directly to purchasers, on a continuous or delayed basis. The prospectus supplement will describe the terms of the plan of distribution and set forth the names of any agents, dealers or underwriters involved in the sale of the securities. See **Plan of Distribution** beginning on page 55 for more information on this topic. No securities may be sold without delivery of a prospectus supplement describing the method and terms of the offering of those securities.

Our common stock is listed on the New York Stock Exchange, or the NYSE, under the symbol **ELS**. On November 1, 2017, the last reported sale price of our common stock on the NYSE was \$88.95 per share.

**Investing in our securities involves risks. You should carefully read the risk factors described in our Securities and Exchange Commission filings, including our most recent Annual Report on Form 10-K or in any future Annual Report on Form 10-K, and each subsequently filed Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q, as well as the other information contained or incorporated by reference in this prospectus or in any prospectus supplement, before investing in our securities. See **Incorporation of Certain Documents by Reference** and **Where you Can Find More Information** in this prospectus.**

**Neither the Securities and Exchange Commission nor any state securities commission has approved or disapproved of these securities or passed upon the adequacy or accuracy of this prospectus. Any representation to the contrary is a criminal offense.**

**The date of this prospectus is November 2, 2017**

Table of Contents

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

	Page
<u>ABOUT THIS PROSPECTUS</u>	1
<u>INFORMATION ABOUT EQUITY LIFESTYLE PROPERTIES, INC.</u>	2
<u>RISK FACTORS</u>	4
<u>CAUTIONARY NOTE REGARDING FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS</u>	5
<u>USE OF PROCEEDS</u>	7
<u>RATIO OF EARNINGS TO COMBINED FIXED CHARGES AND PREFERRED STOCK DIVIDENDS</u>	8
<u>DESCRIPTION OF COMMON STOCK</u>	9
<u>DESCRIPTION OF PREFERRED STOCK</u>	12
<u>DESCRIPTION OF DEPOSITARY SHARES</u>	18
<u>DESCRIPTION OF WARRANTS</u>	21
<u>DESCRIPTION OF RIGHTS</u>	23
<u>DESCRIPTION OF PURCHASE CONTRACTS</u>	24
<u>DESCRIPTION OF UNITS</u>	25
<u>CERTAIN PROVISIONS OF MARYLAND LAW AND OF OUR CHARTER AND BYLAWS</u>	26
<u>THE OPERATING PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT</u>	30
<u>MATERIAL U.S. FEDERAL INCOME TAX CONSIDERATIONS</u>	32
<u>PLAN OF DISTRIBUTION</u>	55
<u>LEGAL MATTERS</u>	57
<u>EXPERTS</u>	58
<u>WHERE YOU CAN FIND MORE INFORMATION</u>	59
<u>INCORPORATION OF CERTAIN DOCUMENTS BY REFERENCE</u>	60

**You should rely only on the information contained or incorporated by reference in this prospectus and any accompanying prospectus supplement. We have not authorized anyone to provide you with different or additional information. If anyone provides you with different or additional 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. The information appearing in this prospectus, any accompanying prospectus supplement and the documents incorporated by reference herein or therein is accurate only as of their respective dates or on other dates which are specified in those documents. Our business, financial condition, results of operations and prospects may have changed since those dates.**

**Table of Contents**

**ABOUT THIS PROSPECTUS**

This prospectus is part of an automatic shelf registration statement that we filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission, or the SEC, in accordance with General Instruction I.D. of Form S-3, using a shelf registration process for the delayed offering and sale of securities pursuant to Rule 415 under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, or the Securities Act. Under the shelf process, we may, from time to time, sell the offered securities described in this prospectus in any combination in one or more offerings. This prospectus provides you with a general description of the securities we may offer. Each time we sell securities, we will provide a prospectus supplement containing specific information about the terms of the securities being offered and the specific manner in which they will be offered. The prospectus supplement may also add, update or change information contained in this prospectus.

This prospectus and any accompanying prospectus supplement do not contain all of the information included in the registration statement. We have omitted parts of the registration statement in accordance with the rules and regulations of the SEC. For further information, we refer you to the registration statement on Form S-3 of which this prospectus is a part, including its exhibits. Statements contained in this prospectus and any accompanying prospectus supplement about the provisions or contents of any agreement or other document are not necessarily complete. If the SEC's rules and regulations require that an agreement or document be filed as an exhibit to the registration statement, please see that agreement or document for a complete description of these matters.

You should read this prospectus together with any additional information you may need to make your investment decision. You should also read and carefully consider the information in the documents we have referred you to in **Where You Can Find More Information** below. Information incorporated by reference after the date of this prospectus may add, update or change information contained in this prospectus. Any information in such subsequent filings that is inconsistent with this prospectus will supersede the information in this prospectus or any earlier prospectus supplement.

As used in this prospectus, unless the context otherwise requires, the terms **we**, **us**, **our** and **our company** refer to all entities owned or controlled by Equity LifeStyle Properties, Inc., including MHC Operating Limited Partnership, our Operating Partnership.

**Table of Contents**

**INFORMATION ABOUT EQUITY LIFESTYLE PROPERTIES, INC.**

We were formed in December 1992 as a Maryland corporation to continue the property operations, business objectives and acquisition strategies of an entity that had owned and operated properties since 1969. We have been a public company since 1993 and have elected to be taxed as a real estate investment trust, or a REIT, for U.S. federal income tax purposes commencing with our taxable year ended December 31, 1993.

We are a fully integrated owner and operator of lifestyle-oriented properties, or Properties, consisting primarily of manufactured home, or MH, communities and recreational vehicle, or RV, resorts and campgrounds. We lease individual developed areas, or Sites, with access to utilities for placement of factory built homes, cottages, cabins or RVs.

We have a unique business model where we own the land upon which we provide our customers the opportunity to place factory built homes, cottages, cabins or RVs, either permanently or on a long-term or short-term basis. Our customers may lease Sites, or enter right-to-use contracts which provide them access to specific Properties for limited stays. Compared to other types of real estate companies, our business model is characterized by low maintenance costs as well as low customer turnover costs. Our portfolio is spread through highly desirable locations with a focus on both retirement and vacation destinations attracting retirees, vacationing families, and second homeowners, while providing a lower cost home ownership alternative. We have more than 90 Properties with lake, river or ocean frontage and more than 100 Properties within 10 miles of the coastal United States.

We are one of the nation's largest real estate networks with a portfolio, as of September 30, 2017, of 404 Properties consisting of 149,448 residential Sites located throughout the United States and Canada. These Properties are located in 32 states and British Columbia.

Our Properties are designed and improved for home options of various sizes and designs that are produced off-site by third-party manufacturers, installed and set on designated Sites, or Site Set, within the Properties. These homes can range from 400 to over 2,000 square feet. Properties may also have Sites that can accommodate a variety of RVs. Properties generally contain centralized entrances, internal road systems and designated Sites. In addition, Properties often provide a clubhouse for social activities and recreation and other amenities, which may include swimming pools, shuffleboard courts, tennis courts, pickleball courts, golf courses, lawn bowling, restaurants, laundry facilities, cable television and internet service. Some Properties provide utilities, including water and sewer service, through municipal or regulated utilities, while others provide these services to customers from on-site facilities.

Our Properties are primarily owned by our Operating Partnership and managed internally by affiliates of our Operating Partnership. The financial results of the Operating Partnership and our subsidiaries are consolidated in our consolidated financial statements. In addition, since certain activities, if performed by us, may not be qualifying REIT activities under the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended, or the Code, we have formed taxable REIT subsidiaries, as defined in the Code, to engage in such activities.

Our primary business objective is to maximize both current and long-term income growth. Our operating strategy is to own and operate the highest quality Properties in sought-after locations near retirement and vacation destinations and urban areas across the United States.

We focus on Properties that have strong cash flow and plan to hold such Properties for long-term investment and capital appreciation. In determining cash flow potential, we evaluate our ability to attract high quality customers to our Properties and retain these customers who take pride in the Property and in their homes. Our operating, investment and financing strategies include:



Consistently providing high levels of services and amenities in attractive surroundings to foster a strong sense of community and pride of home ownership;

Efficiently managing the Properties to increase operating margins by increasing occupancy, maintaining competitive market rents and controlling expenses;

- 2 -

**Table of Contents**

Increasing income and property values by strategic expansion and, where appropriate, renovation of the Properties;

Utilizing technology to evaluate potential acquisitions, identify and track competing properties and monitor existing and prospective customer satisfaction;

Selectively acquiring properties that have potential for long-term cash flow growth and creating property concentrations in and around retirement or vacation destinations and major metropolitan areas to capitalize on operating synergies and incremental efficiencies;

Managing our debt balances in order to maintain financial flexibility, minimize exposure to interest rate fluctuations and maintain an appropriate degree of leverage to maximize return on capital; and

Developing and maintaining relationships with various capital providers.

These business objectives and their implementation are consistent with business strategies determined by our Board of Directors and may be subject to change or amendment at any time.

Our principal executive offices are located at Two North Riverside Plaza, Suite 800, Chicago, Illinois, 60606 and our telephone number is (312) 279-1400. We maintain a website at [www.equitylifestyleproperties.com](http://www.equitylifestyleproperties.com). Our reference to our website is intended to be an inactive textual reference only. Information contained on our website is not, and should not be interpreted to be, part of, or incorporated by reference into, this prospectus.

**Table of Contents**

**RISK FACTORS**

Investment in our securities involves a high degree of risk. You should carefully consider the risks described in the section Risk Factors contained in our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2016, each subsequently filed Annual Report on Form 10-K, and each subsequently filed Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q, which have been filed with the SEC, in addition to the other information contained in this prospectus, in an applicable prospectus supplement, or incorporated by reference herein, before purchasing any of our securities. The Risk Factors sections contained in our most recent Annual Report on Form 10-K and each subsequently filed Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q are incorporated herein by reference. Additional risks and uncertainties not currently known to us or that we currently deem to be immaterial may also materially and adversely affect our business operations. Any of these risks described could materially adversely affect our business, financial condition, results of operations, or ability to make distributions to our stockholders. In such case, you could lose all or a portion of your original investment. In connection with the forward-looking statements that appear in this prospectus, you should carefully review the risk factors discussed in our most recent Annual Report on Form 10-K and each subsequently filed Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q and the cautionary statements referred to in Cautionary Note Regarding Forward-Looking Statements beginning on page 5 of this prospectus.

**Table of Contents**

**CAUTIONARY NOTE REGARDING FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS**

This prospectus and the documents that are incorporated by reference herein contain certain forward-looking statements within the meaning of the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995. When used, words such as anticipate, expect, believe, project, intend, may be and will be and similar words or phrases, or the negative of such words or phrases, unless the context requires otherwise, are intended to identify forward-looking statements and may include, without limitation, information regarding our expectations, goals or intentions regarding the future, and the expected effect of our acquisitions. These forward-looking statements are subject to numerous assumptions, risks and uncertainties, including, but not limited to:

our ability to control costs, real estate market conditions, the actual rate of decline in customers, the actual use of sites by customers and our success in acquiring new customers at our Properties (including those that we may acquire);

our ability to maintain historical or increase future rental rates and occupancy with respect to Properties currently owned or that we may acquire;

our ability to retain and attract customers renewing, upgrading and entering right-to-use contracts;

our assumptions about rental and home sales markets;

our ability to manage counterparty risk;

in the age-qualified Properties, home sales results could be impacted by the ability of potential homebuyers to sell their existing residences as well as by financial, credit and capital markets volatility;

results from home sales and occupancy will continue to be impacted by local economic conditions, lack of affordable manufactured home financing and competition from alternative housing options including site-built single-family housing;

impact of government intervention to stabilize site-built single family housing and not manufactured housing;

effective integration of the recent acquisitions and our estimates regarding the future performance of the recent acquisitions;

the completion of future transactions in their entirety, if any, and timing and effective integration with respect thereto;

unanticipated costs or unforeseen liabilities associated with the recent acquisitions;

ability to obtain financing or refinance existing debt on favorable terms or at all;

the effect of interest rates;

the dilutive effects of issuing additional securities;

the effect of accounting for the entry of contracts with customers representing a right-to-use the Properties under the Codification Topic *Revenue Recognition*;

the outcome of pending or future lawsuits or actions brought against us, including those disclosed in our filings with the SEC; and

other risks indicated from time to time in our filings with the SEC.

**Table of Contents**

For further information on these and other factors that could impact us and the statements contained herein, refer to our filings with the SEC, including Risk Factors in our most recent Annual Report on Form 10-K and each subsequent Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q.

These forward-looking statements are based on management's present expectations and beliefs about future events. As with any projection or forecast, these statements are inherently susceptible to uncertainty and changes in circumstances. We are under no obligation to, and expressly disclaim any obligation to, update or alter our forward-looking statements whether as a result of such changes, new information, subsequent events or otherwise.

**Table of Contents**

**USE OF PROCEEDS**

Unless otherwise specified in the applicable prospectus supplement, we intend to contribute the net proceeds from the sale of the securities offered hereby to our Operating Partnership, which would use such net proceeds for general corporate purposes, which may include the repayment of existing indebtedness, acquisition of additional Properties (including through the acquisition of individual Properties, portfolios and companies) as suitable opportunities arise and the development, renovation, expansion and improvement of our existing Properties. Further details relating to the use of the net proceeds from the sale of a specific series or class of securities will be set forth in the applicable prospectus supplement.

- 7 -

**Table of Contents****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 the periods indicated. This information is given on an unaudited historical basis.

	<b>Nine Months Ended September 30, 2017</b>	<b>Year Ended December 31,</b>				
	<b>2017</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>2015</b>	<b>2014</b>	<b>2013</b>	<b>2012</b>
Ratio of Earnings to Combined Fixed Charges and Preferred Stock Dividends <sup>(1)</sup> (unaudited)	2.95	2.66	2.27	2.09	1.59	1.45

(1) Earnings have been calculated by adding combined fixed charges to consolidated income from continuing operations. Combined fixed charges consist of interest expense, amortization of deferred financing costs and perpetual preferred OP Unit distributions. For all periods, we computed the ratio of earnings to combined fixed charges and preferred stock dividends by dividing earnings by combined fixed charges. Preferred stock was issued in 2011 and in subsequent years, and therefore preferred stock dividends were included in our calculation of ratios of earnings to combined fixed charges and preferred stock dividends for the year ended December 31, 2012 and all subsequent periods including the quarter ended September 30, 2017. On September 25, 2017, we redeemed all issued and outstanding shares of Series C Preferred Stock.



**Table of Contents**

**DESCRIPTION OF COMMON STOCK**

*The following description of the terms of our common stock is only a summary. This description is subject to, and qualified in its entirety by reference to, our charter and bylaws, each of which has previously been filed with the SEC and which we incorporate by reference as exhibits to the registration statement of which this prospectus is a part, and the Maryland General Corporation Law, or MGCL.*

**General**

Our charter provides that we may issue up to 200,000,000 shares of common stock, \$0.01 par value per share. Subject to the provisions of our charter regarding excess stock (as described below), each outstanding share of common stock entitles the holder to one vote on all matters submitted to a vote of stockholders, including the election of directors, and, except as otherwise provided by law or except as provided with respect to any other class or series of stock, the holders of this stock will possess the exclusive voting power. There is no cumulative voting in the election of directors, which means that the holders of a majority of the outstanding shares of common stock can elect all of the directors then standing for election and the holders of the remaining shares, if any, will not be able to elect any directors. On October 27, 2017, there were 87,836,746 shares of common stock outstanding. Under Maryland law, our stockholders are generally not personally liable for any debt or obligation of our company solely as a result of their status as a stockholder of our company.

All shares of common stock offered hereby have been duly authorized, and will be fully paid and nonassessable. Subject to the preferential rights of any other class or series of stock and to the provisions of our charter regarding excess stock, holders of shares of our common stock are entitled to receive distributions on their stock if, as and when authorized by our board of directors and declared by us out of assets legally available therefor. The holders of shares of our common stock are also entitled to share ratably in our assets legally available for distribution to our stockholders in the event of our liquidation, dissolution or winding up, after payment of or adequate provision for all our known debts and liabilities.

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

**Restrictions on Ownership**

Our charter, subject to certain exceptions, contains certain restrictions on the number of shares of our stock that a person may own. Our charter contains a stock ownership limit which prohibits any person from acquiring or holding, directly or indirectly, applying attribution rules under the Internal Revenue Code, shares of stock in excess of 5.0% of the total number of shares or value of our outstanding stock, subject to certain adjustments, whichever is more restrictive. Our charter further prohibits (1) any person from beneficially or constructively owning shares of our stock that would result in us being closely held under Section 856(h) of the Internal Revenue Code (without regard to whether the shares are owned during the last half of a taxable year), and (2) any person from transferring shares of our stock if such transfer would result in shares of our stock being beneficially owned by fewer than 100 persons (as determined without reference to the rules of attribution). Unless exempted prospectively or retroactively by our board of directors, no person may own more than 5.0% of the aggregate number or value of the outstanding shares of our stock. However, our board of directors may not grant and has not granted such an exemption to any person whose ownership, direct or indirect, of in excess of 5.0% of the number or value of the outstanding shares of our stock (whichever is more restrictive) would result in us being closely held within the meaning of Section 856(h) of the

Internal Revenue Code or otherwise would result in us failing to qualify as a REIT.

Our board of directors may require the person seeking an exemption to represent to the satisfaction of our board of directors that the exemption will not result in us failing to qualify as a REIT. Our board of directors may also require the person to agree that any violation or attempted violation of any of the foregoing restrictions will result in the automatic transfer of the shares of stock causing such violation to the trust (as defined below). Our board of directors may require a ruling from the IRS or an opinion of counsel, in either case in form and substance satisfactory to our board of directors in its sole discretion, to determine or ensure our qualification as a REIT.

---

**Table of Contents**

Any person who acquires or attempts or intends to acquire beneficial or constructive ownership of shares of our stock that will or may violate any of the foregoing restrictions on transferability and ownership, or any person who would have owned shares of our stock that resulted in a transfer of shares to the trust in the manner described below, will be required to give written notice immediately to us or, in the case of a proposed or attempted transfer, to give at least 15 days prior written notice to us, and to provide us with such other information as we may request in order to determine the effect of such transfer on us.

If any transfer of shares of our stock occurs which, if effective, would result in any person beneficially or constructively owning shares of our stock in excess or in violation of the above transfer or ownership limitations, then that number of shares of our stock the beneficial or constructive ownership of which otherwise would cause such person to violate such limitations (rounded to the nearest whole share) shall be treated as excess stock and automatically transferred to a trust for the exclusive benefit of one or more beneficiaries, designated by the person so long as (i) the shares of excess stock held in the trust would not be excess stock in the hands of such designated beneficiary and (ii) the prohibited owner does not receive a price for designating the beneficiary that reflects a price per share for such excess stock that exceeds (x) the price per share the prohibited owner paid for the shares of stock in the purported transfer that resulted in the stock being treated as excess stock, or (y) if the prohibited owner did not give value for such excess stock (through a gift, devise or other transaction), a price per share equal to the market price (as the term is defined in our charter) for the shares of the excess stock on the date of the purported transfer that resulted in the excess stock. The prohibited owner shall not acquire any rights in such shares. Such automatic transfer shall be deemed to be effective as of the close of business on the business day prior to the date of the violative transfer. Shares of excess stock held in the trust shall be issued and outstanding shares of our stock. The prohibited owner shall not benefit economically from ownership of any shares of stock held in the trust, shall have no rights to distributions (except upon liquidation) and shall not possess any rights to vote or other rights attributable to the shares of excess stock held in the trust. Subject to the foregoing limitations, the excess stock may be retransferred by the prohibited owner to any person (if the excess stock would not be considered excess stock in the hands of the person) at a price not to exceed the price paid by the prohibited owner or, if the prohibited owner did not give value for the excess stock (*e.g.*, a transfer by gift or devise), the fair market value (as described below) at the time of the proposed transfer that resulted in the excess stock, at which point the excess stock will automatically be exchanged for the stock to which the excess stock is attributable. In addition, the excess stock held in trust is subject to purchase by us at a purchase price equal to the lesser of the price paid per share in the transaction that caused such stock to be excess stock (or, in the case of a devise or gift, the fair market value at the time of such devise or gift) and the fair market value of the excess stock on the date we exercise our right to purchase. Fair market value shall be the last reported sales price of the stock on the NYSE on the trading day immediately preceding the relevant date, or if not then traded on the NYSE, the last reported sales price of the stock on the trading day immediately preceding the relevant date as reported on any exchange or quotation system over which the stock may be traded, or if not then traded over any exchange or quotation system, then the fair market value of such stock on the relevant date as determined in good faith by the board of directors. Our right to purchase shall be effective for a period of 90 days after the later of the date of the purported transfer which resulted in the excess stock and the date the board of directors determines in good faith that such a transfer has occurred. From and after the intended transfer to the prohibited owner of the excess stock, the prohibited owner shall cease to be entitled to distributions (except upon liquidation), voting rights and other benefits with respect to the stock except the right to payment of the purchase price for the stock limited as described above or the retransfer of stock as provided above. Any dividend or distribution paid to a prohibited owner on excess stock prior to the discovery by us that the stock has been transferred in violation of the provisions of our charter shall be repaid to us upon demand. If the foregoing transfer restrictions are determined to be void or invalid by any court of competent jurisdiction, then the prohibited owner of any excess stock may be deemed, at our option, to have acted as an agent on behalf of us in acquiring such excess stock and to hold the excess stock on behalf of us.

All certificates representing shares of our common stock and our preferred stock, will bear a legend referring to the restrictions described above.

**Table of Contents**

Every record holder of more than 5.0% (or such other percentage as required by the Internal Revenue Code and the related Treasury regulations) of all classes or series of our stock, including shares of our common stock, shall be required, upon demand, to give written notice to us stating the name and address of such record holder, the number of shares of each class and series of our stock which the record holder beneficially owns and a description of the manner in which such shares are held. Each such record holder shall provide to us such additional information as we may request in order to determine the effect, if any, of such beneficial ownership on our qualification as a REIT. In addition, each record holder shall upon demand be required to provide to us such information as we may reasonably request in order to determine our qualification as a REIT and to comply with the requirements of any taxing authority or governmental authority or to determine such compliance. We may request such information after every sale, disposition or transfer of our common stock prior to the date a registration statement for such stock becomes effective. A record holder who fails to supply the required information will be required to file a supplemental statement with the Internal Revenue Service along with such holder's U.S. federal income tax returns.

These ownership limits could delay, defer or prevent a change in control or other transaction of us that might involve a premium price for the common stock or otherwise be in the best interest of the stockholders.

**Transfer Agent and Registrar**

The transfer agent and registrar for our common stock is American Stock Transfer and Trust Company, LLC.

**Table of Contents**

**DESCRIPTION OF PREFERRED STOCK**

*The following description of the terms of our preferred stock is only a summary. The specific terms of any series of preferred stock will be described in the applicable prospectus supplement. These descriptions and the description contained in any prospectus supplement are subject to and qualified in their entirety by reference to our charter and our bylaws, each of which has previously been filed with the SEC and which we incorporate by reference as exhibits to the registration statement of which this prospectus is a part, the MGCL, and the form of articles supplementary relating to the applicable series of preferred stock.*

**General**

Our charter provides that we may issue up to 10,000,000 shares of preferred stock, \$0.01 par value per share. As of September 30, 2017, we had no shares of preferred stock outstanding. The following description of the preferred stock 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 the applicable provisions of our charter and bylaws and any applicable articles supplementary to the charter designating terms of a series of preferred stock. The issuance of preferred stock could adversely affect the voting power, dividend rights and other rights of holders of common stock. Although our board of directors does not have this intention at this present time, it could establish a series of preferred stock, that could, depending on the terms of the series, delay, defer or prevent a transaction or a change in control of our company that might involve a premium price for the common stock or otherwise be in the best interest of the holders thereof. Management believes that the availability of preferred stock will provide us with increased flexibility in structuring possible future financing and acquisitions and in meeting other needs that might arise.

***Terms***

Subject to the limitations prescribed by our charter, our board of directors is authorized to classify any unissued shares of preferred stock and to reclassify any previously classified but unissued share of any series of preferred stock previously authorized by our board of directors. Prior to issuance of shares of each class or series of preferred stock, our board of directors is required by the MGCL and our charter to fix 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 series.

Reference is made to the applicable prospectus supplement relating to the series of preferred stock offered thereby for the specific terms thereof, including:

The title and stated value of the preferred stock;

The number of shares of the preferred stock, the liquidation preference per share of the preferred stock and the offering price of the preferred stock;

The dividend rate(s), period(s) and/or payment day(s) or method(s) of calculation thereof applicable to the preferred stock;

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

The procedures for any auction and remarketing, if any, for the preferred stock;

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

The provision for redemption, if applicable, of the preferred stock;

Any listing of the preferred stock on any securities exchange;

The terms and conditions, if applicable, upon which the preferred stock may or will be convertible into our common stock, including the conversion price or manner of calculation thereof;

**Table of Contents**

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

Any limitations on direct or beneficial ownership and restrictions on transfer, in each case as may be appropriate to preserve the qualification of our company as a REIT;

A discussion of U.S. federal income tax considerations applicable to the preferred stock; and

Any other specific terms, preferences, rights, limitations or restrictions of the preferred stock.

***Rank***

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

- (a) senior to all classes or series of common stock and to all equity securities issued by us the terms of which provide that the equity securities shall rank junior to the preferred stock;
- (b) on a parity with all equity securities issued by us other than those referred to in clauses (a) and (c); and
- (c) junior to all equity securities issued by us which the terms of the preferred stock provide will rank senior to it. The term equity securities does not include convertible debt securities.

***Dividends***

Unless otherwise specified in the applicable prospectus supplement, the preferred stock will have the rights with respect to payment of dividends set forth below.

Holders of the preferred stock of each series will be entitled to receive, when, as and if authorized by our board of directors and declared by us, out of our assets legally available for payment, cash dividends in the amounts and on the dates as will be set forth in, or pursuant to and declared by us, the applicable prospectus supplement. Each dividend shall be payable to holders of record as they appear on our share transfer books on the record dates as shall be fixed by our board of directors.

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



If preferred stock of any series is outstanding, no full dividends will be declared or paid or set apart for payment on any of our capital stock of any other series ranking, as to dividends, on a parity with or junior to the preferred stock of this series for any period unless:

if this series of preferred stock has a cumulative dividend, full cumulative dividends have been or contemporaneously are declared and paid or declared and a sum sufficient for the payment thereof set apart for the payment for all past dividend periods; or

if this series of preferred stock does not have a cumulative dividend, full dividends for the then current dividend period have been or contemporaneously are declared and paid or declared and a sum sufficient for the payment thereof set apart for the payment on the preferred stock of this series.

When dividends are not paid in full or a sum sufficient for the full payment is not so set apart upon preferred stock of any series and the shares of any other series of preferred stock ranking on a parity as to dividends

**Table of Contents**

with the preferred stock of this series, all dividends declared upon the preferred stock of this series and any other series of preferred stock ranking on a parity as to dividends with the preferred stock shall be declared *pro rata* so that the amount of dividends declared per share of preferred stock of this series and the other series of preferred stock shall in all cases bear to each other the same ratio that accrued dividends per share on the preferred stock of this series and the other series of preferred stock which shall not include any accumulation in respect of unpaid dividends for prior dividend periods if the preferred stock, does not have a cumulative dividend, bear to each other. No interest, or sum of money in lieu of interest, shall be payable in respect of any dividend payment or payments on preferred stock of this series which may be in arrears.

Except as provided in the immediately preceding paragraph, unless (a) if this series of preferred stock has a cumulative dividend, full cumulative dividends on the preferred stock of this series have been or contemporaneously are declared and paid or declared and a sum sufficient for the payment thereof set apart for payment for all past dividend periods and (b) if this series of preferred stock does not have a cumulative dividend, full dividends on the preferred stock of this series have been or contemporaneously are declared and paid or declared and a sum sufficient for the payment thereof set apart for payment for the then current dividend period, no dividends, other than in shares of common stock or other capital stock ranking junior to the preferred stock of this series as to dividends and upon liquidation, shall be declared or paid or set apart for payment or other distribution shall be declared or made upon the common stock, or any of our other capital stock ranking junior to or on a parity with the preferred stock of this series as to dividends or upon liquidation, nor shall any shares of common stock, or any other of our capital stock ranking junior to or on a parity with the preferred stock of this series as to dividends or upon liquidation, be redeemed, purchased or otherwise acquired for any consideration or any moneys be paid to or made available for a sinking fund for the redemption of any of the shares by us except:

by conversion into or exchange for other of our capital stock ranking junior to the preferred stock of this series as to dividends and upon liquidation; or

redemptions for the purpose of preserving our qualification as a REIT.

***Redemption***

If so provided in the applicable prospectus supplement, the preferred stock will be subject to mandatory redemption or redemption at our option, as a whole or in part, in each case upon the terms, at the times and at the redemption prices set forth in the prospectus supplement.

The prospectus supplement relating to a series of preferred stock that is subject to mandatory redemption will specify the number of shares of the preferred stock that shall be redeemed by us in each year commencing after a date to be specified, at a redemption price per share to be specified, together with an amount equal to all accumulated and unpaid dividends thereon which shall not, if the preferred stock does not have a cumulative dividend, include any accumulation in respect of unpaid dividends for prior dividend periods, to the date of redemption. The redemption price may be payable in cash or other property, as specified in the applicable prospectus supplement. If the redemption price for preferred stock of any series is payable only from the net proceeds of the issuance of our capital stock, the terms of the preferred stock may provide that, if no capital stock shall have been issued or to the extent the net proceeds from any issuance are insufficient to pay in full the aggregate redemption price then due, the preferred stock shall automatically and mandatorily be converted into the applicable capital stock of our company pursuant to conversion provisions specified in the applicable prospectus supplement.



**Table of Contents**

Notwithstanding the foregoing, unless (a) if this series of preferred stock has a cumulative dividend, full cumulative dividends on all shares of any series of preferred stock shall have been or contemporaneously are declared and paid or declared and a sum sufficient for the payment thereof set apart for payment for all past dividend periods and (b) if this series of preferred stock does not have a cumulative dividend, full dividends on the preferred stock of any series have been or contemporaneously are declared and paid or declared and a sum sufficient for the payment thereof set apart for payment for the then current dividend period, no shares of any series of preferred stock shall be redeemed unless all outstanding preferred stock of this series is simultaneously redeemed; provided, however, that the foregoing shall not prevent the purchase or acquisition of preferred stock of this series to preserve our REIT qualification or pursuant to a purchase or exchange offer made on the same terms to holders of all outstanding preferred stock of this series. In addition, unless (a) if this series of preferred stock has a cumulative dividend, full cumulative dividends on all outstanding shares of any series of preferred stock have been or contemporaneously are declared and paid or declared and a sum sufficient for the payment thereof set apart for payment for all past dividend periods and (b) if this series of preferred stock does not have a cumulative dividend, full dividends on the preferred stock of any series have been or contemporaneously are declared and paid or declared and a sum sufficient for the payment thereof set apart for payment for the then current dividend period, we shall not purchase or otherwise acquire, directly or indirectly, any shares of preferred stock of this series except by conversion into or exchange for our capital stock ranking junior to the preferred stock of this series as to dividends and upon liquidation; provided, however, that the foregoing shall not prevent the purchase or acquisition of preferred stock of this series to preserve our REIT qualification or pursuant to a purchase or exchange offer made on the same terms to holders of all outstanding preferred stock of this series.

If fewer than all of the outstanding shares of preferred stock of any series are to be redeemed, the number of shares to be redeemed will be determined by us and the shares may be redeemed *pro rata* from the holders of record of the shares in proportion to the number of the shares held or for which redemption is requested by the holder, with adjustments to avoid redemption of fractional shares, or by lot in a manner determined by us.

Notice of redemption will be mailed at least 30 days but not more than 60 days before the redemption date to each holder of record of preferred stock of any series to be redeemed at the address shown on our share transfer books. Each notice shall state:

the redemption date;

the number of shares and series of the preferred stock to be redeemed;

the redemption price;

the place or places where certificates for the preferred stock are to be surrendered for payment of the redemption price;

that dividends on the shares to be redeemed will cease to accumulate on the redemption date; and

the date upon which the holder's conversion rights, if any, as to the shares shall terminate.

If fewer than all the shares of preferred stock of any series are to be redeemed, the notice mailed to each holder thereof shall also specify the number of shares of preferred stock to be redeemed from each holder. If notice of redemption of any preferred stock has been given and if the funds necessary for the redemption have been set aside by us in trust for the benefit of the holders of any preferred stock so called for redemption, then from and after the redemption date dividends will cease to accumulate on the preferred stock, and all rights of the holders of the preferred stock will terminate, except the right to receive the redemption price.

***Liquidation Preference***

Upon any voluntary or involuntary liquidation, dissolution or winding up of our affairs, then, before any distribution or payment shall be made to the holders of any common stock or any other class or series of our capital stock ranking junior to the preferred stock of this series in the distribution of assets upon any liquidation, dissolution or winding up of our company, the holders of the preferred stock shall be entitled to receive out of our assets of our company legally available for distribution to stockholders liquidating distributions in the amount of the liquidation preference per share that is set forth in the applicable prospectus supplement, plus an amount equal to all dividends accumulated and unpaid thereon, which shall not include any accumulation in respect of unpaid dividends for prior dividend periods if the preferred stock does not have a cumulative dividend. After payment of the full amount of the liquidating distributions to which they are entitled, the holders of preferred stock will have no rights or claim to any of our remaining assets. In the event that, upon any voluntary or involuntary liquidation, dissolution or winding up, our available assets are insufficient to pay the amount of the liquidating distributions on all outstanding preferred stock of this series and the corresponding amounts payable on all shares of other classes or series of capital stock of our company ranking on a parity with the preferred stock in the distribution of assets, then the holders of the preferred stock and all other classes or series of capital stock shall share ratably in any distribution of assets in proportion to the full liquidating distributions to which they would otherwise be respectively entitled.

## **Table of Contents**

Our consolidation or merger with or into any other entity, or the merger of another entity with or into our company, or a statutory share exchange by us, or the sale, lease or conveyance of all or substantially all of our property or business, shall not be deemed to constitute a liquidation, dissolution or winding up of our company.

### ***Voting Rights***

Holders of the preferred stock will not have any voting rights, except as set forth below or as indicated in the applicable prospectus supplement.

Whenever dividends on any series of preferred stock shall be in arrears for six or more quarterly periods, the holders of the preferred stock, voting separately as a class with all other series of preferred stock upon which like voting rights have been conferred and are exercisable, will be entitled to vote for the election of two additional directors of our company at a special meeting called upon written request of the holders of record of at least ten percent of any series of preferred stock so in arrears, unless the request is received less than 90 days before the date fixed for the next annual or special meeting of the stockholders, or at the next annual meeting of stockholders, and at each subsequent annual meeting until (a) if this series of preferred stock has a cumulative dividend, all dividends accumulated on these shares of preferred stock for the past dividend periods and the then current dividend period shall have been fully paid or declared and a sum sufficient for the payment thereof set apart for payment or (b) if this series of preferred stock does not have a cumulative dividend, four quarterly dividends shall have been fully paid or declared and a sum sufficient for the payment thereof set apart for payment. In these cases, the entire board of directors will be automatically increased by two directors.

Unless provided otherwise for any series of preferred stock, so long as any shares of the preferred stock remain outstanding, we will not, without the affirmative vote or consent of the holders of at least two-thirds of the shares of this series of preferred stock outstanding at the time, given in person or by proxy, either in writing or at a meeting with this series voting separately as a class:

- (a) authorize or create, or increase the authorized or issued amount of, any class or series of capital stock ranking senior to the preferred stock with respect to payment of dividends or the distribution of assets upon liquidation, dissolution or winding up of our company, or reclassify any of our authorized capital stock into such senior series of preferred stock, or create, authorize or issue any obligation or security convertible into or evidencing the right to purchase any of such senior series of preferred stock; or
- (b) amend, alter or repeal the provisions of the charter including the articles supplementary for this series of preferred stock, whether by merger, consolidation or otherwise, so as to materially and adversely affect any right, preference, privilege or voting power of this series of preferred stock; provided, however, with respect to the occurrence of any of the events set forth in (b) above, so long as this series of preferred stock remains outstanding with the terms thereof materially unchanged, taking into account that upon the occurrence of an event we may not be the surviving entity, the occurrence of any similar event shall not be deemed to materially and adversely affect the rights, preferences, privileges or voting powers of this series of preferred stock; and provided, further, that (x) any increase in the number of authorized shares of preferred stock or the creation or issuance of any other series of preferred stock, or (y) any increase in the number of authorized shares of this series of preferred stock or any other series of preferred stock, in each case ranking on a parity with or junior to the preferred stock of this series with respect to payment of dividends or the distribution of assets upon liquidation, dissolution or winding up of our company, shall not be deemed to materially and

adversely affect the rights, preferences, privileges or voting powers.

The foregoing voting provisions will not apply if, at or prior to the time when the act with respect to which the vote or consent would otherwise be required shall be effected, all outstanding shares of this series of preferred stock shall have been converted, redeemed or called for redemption and sufficient funds shall have been deposited in trust to effect the redemption.

**Table of Contents**

***Conversion Rights***

The terms and conditions, if any, upon which any series of preferred stock is convertible into shares of common stock will be set forth in the applicable prospectus supplement. The terms will include the number of shares of common stock into which the shares of preferred stock are convertible, the conversion price, or manner of calculation thereof, the conversion period, provisions as to whether conversion will be at the option of the holders of our preferred stock or us, the events requiring an adjustment of the conversion price and provisions affecting conversion in the event of the redemption of the preferred stock.

***Stockholder Liability***

Maryland law provides that no stockholder, including holders of preferred stock, shall be personally liable for our acts and obligations and that our funds and property shall be the only recourse for these acts or obligations.

***Restrictions on Ownership***

To qualify as a REIT under the Internal Revenue Code, not more than 50% in value of our outstanding capital stock may be owned, directly or indirectly, by five or fewer individuals at any time during the last half of a taxable year. An individual for these purposes is defined by the U.S. federal income tax laws pertaining to REITs and is very complex. Therefore, the articles supplementary for each series of preferred stock may contain provisions restricting the ownership and transfer of the preferred stock. The applicable prospectus supplement will specify any additional ownership limitation relating to a series of preferred stock.

***Registrar and Transfer Agent***

The transfer agent and registrar for any series of preferred stock will be set forth in the related prospectus supplement.



**Table of Contents**

**DESCRIPTION OF DEPOSITARY SHARES**

*The following description of the terms of the depositary shares is only a summary. This description is subject to, and qualified in its entirety by reference to, the provisions of any deposit agreement we may enter into, our charter and the form of articles supplementary for the applicable series of preferred stock.*

**General**

We may, at our option, elect to offer depositary shares rather than full shares of preferred stock. In the event such option is exercised, each of the depositary shares will represent ownership of and entitlement to all rights and preferences of a fraction of a share of preferred stock of a specified series (including dividend, voting, redemption and liquidation rights). The applicable fraction will be specified in a prospectus supplement. The shares of preferred stock represented by the depositary shares will be deposited with a depositary named in the applicable prospectus supplement, under a deposit agreement, among our company, the depositary and the holders of the certificates evidencing depositary shares, or depositary receipts. Depositary receipts will be delivered to those persons purchasing depositary shares in the offering. The depositary will be the transfer agent, registrar and dividend disbursing agent for the depositary shares. Holders of depositary receipts agree to be bound by the deposit agreement, which requires holders to take certain actions such as filing proof of residence and paying certain charges.

**General Description of Depositary Shares**

***Dividends***

A depositary will distribute all cash dividends or other cash distributions received in respect of the series of preferred stock represented by such depositary shares to the record holders of depositary receipts in proportion to the number of depositary shares owned by such holders on the relevant record date, which will be the same date as the record date fixed by our company for the applicable series of preferred stock. Such depositary, however, will distribute only such amount as can be distributed without attributing to any depositary share a fraction of one cent, and any balance not so distributed will be added to and treated as part of the next sum received by the depositary for distribution to record holders of depositary receipts then outstanding.

In the event of a distribution other than in cash, such depositary will distribute property received by it to the record holders of depositary receipts entitled thereto, in proportion, as nearly as may be practicable, to the number of depositary shares owned by such holders on the relevant record date, unless the depositary determines (after consultation with our company) that it is not feasible to make such distribution, in which case the depositary may (with the approval of our company) adopt any other method for such distribution as it deems equitable and appropriate, including the sale of such property (at such place or places and upon such terms as it may deem equitable and appropriate) and distribution of the net proceeds from such sale to such holders.

No distribution will be made in respect of any depositary share to the extent that it represents any preferred stock converted into excess stock.

***Liquidation Preference***

In the event of the liquidation, dissolution or winding up of the affairs of our company, whether voluntary or involuntary, the holders of each depositary share will be entitled to the fraction of the liquidation preference accorded each share of the applicable series of preferred stock as set forth in the prospectus supplement.

***Redemption***

If the series of preferred stock represented by the applicable series of depositary shares is redeemable, such depositary shares will be redeemed from the proceeds received by the depositary resulting from the redemption, in whole or in part, of preferred stock held by the depositary. Whenever we redeem any preferred stock held by the depositary, such depositary will redeem as of the same redemption date the number of depositary shares representing the preferred stock so redeemed. Such depositary will mail the notice of redemption promptly upon receipt of such notice from us and not less than 30 nor more than 60 days prior to the date fixed for redemption of the preferred stock and the depositary shares to the record holders of the depositary receipts.

**Table of Contents**

***Voting***

Promptly upon receipt of notice of any meeting at which the holders of the series of preferred stock represented by the applicable series of depositary shares are entitled to vote, such depositary will mail the information contained in such notice of meeting to the record holders of the depositary receipts as of the record date for such meeting. Each such record holder of depositary receipts will be entitled to instruct the depositary as to the exercise of the voting rights pertaining to the number of shares of preferred stock represented by such record holder's depositary shares. Such depositary will endeavor, insofar as practicable, to vote such preferred stock represented by such depositary shares in accordance with such instructions, and we will agree to take all action which may be deemed necessary by the depositary in order to enable the depositary to do so. Such depositary will abstain from voting any of the preferred stock to the extent that it does not receive specific instructions from the holders of depositary receipts.

***Withdrawal of Preferred Stock***

Upon surrender of depositary receipts at the principal office of such depositary, upon payment of any unpaid amount due such depositary, and subject to the terms of such deposit agreement, the owner of the depositary shares evidenced thereby is entitled to delivery of the number of whole shares of preferred stock and all money and other property, if any, represented by such depositary shares. Partial shares of preferred stock will not be issued. If the depositary receipts delivered by the holder evidence a number of depositary shares in excess of the number of depositary shares representing the number of whole shares of preferred stock to be withdrawn, such depositary will deliver to such holder at the same time a new depositary receipt evidencing such excess number of depositary shares. Holders of preferred stock thus withdrawn will not thereafter be entitled to deposit such shares under the deposit agreement or to receive depositary receipts evidencing depositary shares therefore.

***Amendment and Termination of Deposit Agreement***

The form of depositary receipt evidencing such depositary shares and any provision of such deposit agreement may at any time and from time to time be amended by agreement between our company and such depositary. However, any amendment which materially and adversely alters the rights of the holders (other than any change in fees) of depositary shares will not be effective unless such amendment has been approved by at least a majority of the depositary shares then outstanding. No such amendment may impair the right, subject to the terms of such deposit agreement, of any owner of any depositary shares to surrender such depositary receipt evidencing such depositary shares with instructions to the depositary to deliver to the holder of the preferred stock and all money and other property, if any, represented thereby, except in order to comply with mandatory provisions of applicable law.

Such deposit agreement will be permitted to be terminated by our company upon not less than 30 days prior written notice to the applicable depositary if (i) such termination is necessary to preserve our qualification as a REIT or (ii) a majority of each series of preferred stock affected by such termination consents to such termination, whereupon such depositary will be required to deliver or make available to each holder of depositary receipts, upon surrender of the depositary receipts held by such holder, such number of whole or fractional shares of preferred stock as are represented by the depositary shares evidenced by such depositary receipts together with any other property held by such depositary with respect to such depositary receipts. We will agree that if such deposit agreement is terminated to preserve our qualification as a REIT, then we will use our best efforts to list the preferred stock issued upon surrender of the related depositary shares on a national securities exchange. In addition, such deposit agreement will automatically terminate if (i) all outstanding depositary shares thereunder shall have been redeemed, (ii) there shall have been a final distribution in respect of the related preferred stock in connection with any liquidation, dissolution or winding-up of our company and such distribution shall have been distributed to the holders of depositary receipts evidencing the depositary shares representing such preferred stock or (iii) each share of the related preferred stock

shall have been converted into stock of our company not so represented by depositary shares.

## **Table of Contents**

### ***Charges of Depositary***

We will pay all transfer and other taxes and governmental charges arising solely from the existence of the depositary arrangements. We will pay charges of such depositary in connection with the initial deposit of the preferred stock and initial issuance of the depositary shares, and redemption of the preferred stock and all withdrawals of preferred stock by owners of depositary shares. Holders of depositary receipts will pay transfer, income and other taxes and governmental charges and certain other charges as are provided in the deposit agreement to be for their accounts. In certain circumstances, such depositary may refuse to transfer depositary shares, may withhold dividends and distributions and sell the depositary shares evidenced by such depositary receipt if such charges are not paid.

### ***Miscellaneous***

Such depositary will forward to the holders of depositary receipts all reports and communications from us which are delivered to such depositary and which we are required to furnish to the holders of the preferred stock. In addition, such depositary will make available for inspection by holders of depositary receipts at the principal office of such depositary, and at such other places as it may from time to time deem advisable, any reports and communications received from us which are received by the depositary as the holder of preferred stock.

Neither such depositary nor we assume any obligation or will be subject to any liability under such deposit agreement to holders of the depositary receipts other than for its gross negligence, willful misconduct or bad faith. Neither such depositary nor our company will be liable if it is prevented or delayed by law or any circumstance beyond its control in performing its obligations under the deposit agreement. The obligations of our company and such depositary under such deposit agreement will be limited to performance in good faith of their duties thereunder, and they will not be obligated to prosecute or defend any legal proceeding in respect of any depositary shares or preferred stock unless satisfactory indemnity is furnished. Our company and such depositary may rely on written advice of counsel or accountants, on information provided by holders of the depositary receipts or other persons believed in good faith to be competent to give such information and on documents believed to be genuine and to have been signed or presented by the proper party or parties.

In the event such depositary shall receive conflicting claims, requests or instructions from any holders of depositary receipts, on the one hand, and our company, on the other hand, such depositary shall be entitled to act on such claims, requests or instructions received from our company.

### ***Resignation and Removal of Depositary***

Such depositary may resign at any time by delivering to us notice of its election to do so, and we may at any time remove such depositary, any such resignation or removal to take effect upon the appointment of a successor depositary and its acceptance of such appointment. Such successor depositary must be appointed within 60 days after delivery of the notice for resignation or removal and must be a bank or trust company having its principal office in the United States of America and having a combined capital and surplus of at least \$150,000,000.

### ***U.S. Federal Income Tax Consequences***

Owners of depositary shares will be treated for U.S. federal income tax purposes as if they were owners of the preferred stock represented by such depositary shares. Accordingly, such owners will be entitled to take into account, for U.S. federal income tax purposes, income and deductions to which they would be entitled if they were holders of such preferred stock. In addition, (i) no gain or loss will be recognized for U.S. federal income tax purposes upon the withdrawal of preferred stock to an exchange owner of depositary shares, (ii) the tax basis of each share of preferred

stock to an exchanging owner of depositary shares will, upon such exchange, be the same as the aggregate tax basis of the depositary shares exchanged therefore, and (iii) the holding period for preferred stock in the hands of an exchanging owner of depositary shares will include the period during which such person owned such depositary shares.

**Table of Contents**

**DESCRIPTION OF WARRANTS**

*The following description of the terms of the warrants is only a summary. This description is subject to, and qualified in its entirety by reference to, the provisions of the warrant agreement.*

We may issue warrants for the purchase of common stock, preferred stock or depositary shares and may issue warrants independently or together with common stock, preferred stock, depositary shares or attached to or separate from such securities. We will issue each series of warrants under a separate warrant agreement between us and a bank or trust company as warrant agent, as specified in the applicable prospectus supplement.

The warrant agent will act solely as our agent in connection with the warrants and will not act for or on behalf of warrant holders. The following sets forth certain general terms and provisions of the warrants that may be offered under this registration statement. Further terms of the warrants and the applicable warrant agreement will be set forth in the applicable prospectus supplement.

The applicable prospectus supplement will describe the terms of the warrants in respect of which this prospectus is being delivered, including, where applicable, the following:

the title of such warrants;

the aggregate number of such warrants;

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

the type and number of securities purchasable upon exercise of such warrants;

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

the date, if any, on and after which such warrants and the related securities will be separately transferable;

the price at which each security purchasable upon exercise of such warrants may be purchased;

the date on which the right to exercise such warrants shall commence and the date on which such right shall expire;

the minimum or maximum amount of such warrants that may be exercised at any one time;

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

any anti-dilution protection;

a discussion of certain U.S. federal income tax considerations; and

any other terms of such warrants, including terms, procedures and limitations relating to the transferability, exercise and exchange of such warrants.

Warrant certificates will be exchangeable for new warrant certificates of different denominations and warrants may be exercised at the corporate trust office of the warrant agent or any other office indicated in the applicable prospectus supplement. Prior to the exercise of their warrants, holders of warrants will not have any of the rights of holders of the securities purchasable upon such exercise or to any dividend payments or voting rights as to which holders of the shares of common stock or preferred stock purchasable upon such exercise may be entitled.

Each warrant will entitle the holder to purchase for cash such number of shares of common stock or preferred stock, at such exercise price as shall, in each case, be set forth in, or be determinable as set forth in, the applicable prospectus supplement relating to the warrants offered thereby. Unless otherwise specified in the applicable prospectus supplement, warrants may be exercised at any time up to 5:00 p.m. New York City time on the expiration date set forth in applicable prospectus supplement. After 5:00 p.m. New York City time on the expiration date, unexercised warrants will be void.



**Table of Contents**

Warrants may be exercised as set forth in the applicable prospectus supplement relating to the warrants. Upon receipt of payment and the warrant certificate properly completed and duly executed at the corporate trust office of the warrant agent or any other office indicated in the applicable prospectus supplement, we will, as soon as practicable, forward the securities purchasable upon such exercise. If less than all of the warrants are presented by such warrant certificate of exercise, a new warrant certificate will be issued for the remaining amount of warrants.

**Table of Contents**

**DESCRIPTION OF RIGHTS**

We may issue rights to purchase our common stock, preferred stock, depositary shares or other offered securities independently or together with any other offered securities. Any rights that we may issue may or may not be transferable by the person purchasing or receiving the rights. In connection with any rights offering to our stockholders, we may enter into a standby underwriting or other arrangement with one or more underwriters or other persons pursuant to which such underwriters or other person would purchase any offered securities remaining unsubscribed for after such rights offering. Each series of rights will be issued under a separate rights agent agreement to be entered into between us and a bank or trust company, as rights agent, that we will name in the applicable prospectus supplement. The rights agent will act solely as our agent in connection with the certificates relating to the rights and will not assume any obligation or relationship of agency or trust for or with any holders of rights certificates or beneficial owners of rights.

The applicable prospectus supplement or other offering material will describe the specific terms of any offering of rights for which this prospectus is being delivered, including the following to the extent applicable:

the number of rights issued or to be issued to each stockholder;

the exercise price payable for each share of common stock, preferred stock, depositary shares or other offered security upon the exercise of the rights;

the number and terms of the shares of common stock, preferred stock, depositary shares or other offered securities which may be purchased per each right;

the extent to which the rights are transferable;

the date on which the holder's ability to exercise the rights shall commence, and the date on which the rights shall expire;

the extent to which the rights may include an over-subscription privilege with respect to unsubscribed securities;

if applicable, the material terms of any standby underwriting or other arrangement entered into by us in connection with the offering of such rights; and

any other terms of the rights, including the terms, procedures, conditions and limitations relating to the exchange and exercise of the rights.

The description in the applicable prospectus supplement or other offering material of any rights that we may offer will not necessarily be complete and will be qualified in its entirety by reference to the applicable rights certificate, which

will be filed with the SEC.

**Table of Contents**

**DESCRIPTION OF PURCHASE CONTRACTS**

We may issue purchase contracts obligating holders to purchase from us, and us to sell to the holders, equity securities issued by us, or securities of third parties or any combination of such securities at a future date or dates. The purchase contracts may require us to make periodic payments to the holders of purchase contracts. These payments may be unsecured or prefunded on a basis to be specified in the prospectus supplement relating to the purchase contracts.

The applicable prospectus supplement will describe the terms of any purchase contract. The purchase contracts will be issued pursuant to documents to be issued by us. You should read the particular terms of the documents, which will be described in more detail in the applicable prospectus supplement.

**Table of Contents**

**DESCRIPTION OF UNITS**

We may issue units consisting of one or more purchase contracts, warrants, shares of preferred stock, depositary shares, shares of common stock or any combination of such securities. The applicable prospectus supplement will describe the terms of the units and of the securities comprising the units, including whether and under what circumstances the securities comprising the units may be traded separately. You should read the particular terms of the documents pursuant to which the units will be issued, which will be described in more detail in the applicable prospectus supplement.

- 25 -

**Table of Contents**

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

*The following summary of certain provisions of Maryland law and our charter and bylaws contains the material terms of our charter and our bylaws and is subject to, and qualified in its entirety by, reference to Maryland law and to our charter and our bylaws.*

**Classification of Board of Directors**

Our bylaws provide that the number of directors may be established, increased or decreased by our board of directors but may not be fewer than the minimum number required by the MGCL (which currently is one) nor more than 15. However, our charter provides that, if there is stock outstanding and so long as there are three or more stockholders, the number of directors may not be less than three. All directors are elected to serve until the next annual meeting of our stockholders and until their successors are duly elected and qualify. Any vacancy on our board may be filled by a majority of the remaining directors, even if such a majority constitutes less than a quorum, except that a vacancy resulting from an increase in the number of directors must be filled by a majority of the entire board of directors. Our stockholders may elect a successor to fill a vacancy on our board which results from the removal of a director.

**Removal of Directors**

Our charter provides that a director may be removed only for cause and only by the affirmative vote of two-thirds of all the votes entitled to be cast for the election of our directors. This provision, when coupled with the provision in our bylaws authorizing our board of directors to fill vacant directorships, will preclude stockholders from removing incumbent directors and filling the vacancies created by such removal with their own nominees except upon a substantial affirmative vote and for cause.

**Limitation of Liability and Indemnification**

The MGCL permits a Maryland corporation to include in its charter a provision limiting the liability of its directors and officers to the corporation and its stockholders for money damages except for liability resulting from (1) actual receipt of an improper benefit or profit in money, property or services, or (2) active and deliberate dishonesty established by a final judgment as being material to the cause of action. Article IX of our charter contains such a provision which eliminates such liability to the maximum extent permitted by the MGCL.

Our bylaws obligate us, to the maximum extent permitted by Maryland law, to indemnify any person who is or was a party to, or is threatened to be made a party to, any threatened or pending proceeding by reason of the fact that such person is or was a director or officer of our company, or while a director or officer of our company is or was serving, at our request, as a director, officer, agent, partner, employee or trustee of any other corporation, partnership, joint venture, trust, employee benefit plan or other enterprise, or whether conducted for profit or not. To the maximum extent permitted by Maryland law, the indemnification provided for in our charter and bylaws shall include reasonable expenses (including attorney's fees), judgments, fines and amounts paid in settlement and any such expenses must be paid or reimbursed by us in advance of the final disposition of any such proceeding without requiring a preliminary determination of the ultimate entitlement to indemnification.

The MGCL requires a corporation (unless its charter provides otherwise, which our charter does not) to indemnify a director or officer who has been successful, on the merits or otherwise, in the defense of any proceeding to which he is made a party by reason of his service in that capacity. The MGCL permits a corporation to indemnify its present and former directors and officers, among others, against judgments, penalties, fines, settlements and reasonable expenses actually incurred by them in connection with any proceeding to which they may be made or threatened to 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, (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. However, under the MGCL, a Maryland corporation may not indemnify for an adverse judgment in a suit by or in the right of the corporation or for a judgment of liability on the basis that personal benefit was improperly received, unless in either case a court orders indemnification and then only for expenses. In addition, the MGCL permits a corporation to advance reasonable expenses to a director or officer upon the corporation's receipt of (1) a written affirmation by the director or officer of his good faith belief that he has met the standard of conduct necessary for indemnification by the corporation, and (2) a written undertaking by or on his behalf to repay the amount paid or reimbursed by the corporation if it shall ultimately be determined that the standard of conduct was not met.

## **Table of Contents**

### **Indemnification Agreements**

We have entered into indemnification agreements with each of our directors and executive officers. The indemnification agreements require, among other things, that we indemnify such persons to the fullest extent permitted by law, and advance to such persons all reasonable related expenses, subject to reimbursement if it is subsequently determined that indemnification is not permitted. Under these agreements, we must also indemnify and advance all reasonable expenses incurred by such persons seeking to enforce their rights under the indemnification agreements, and may cover our directors and executive officers under our directors' and officers' liability insurance. Although the form of indemnification agreement offers substantially the same scope of coverage afforded by law, it provides greater assurance to our directors and executive officers and such other persons that indemnification will be available because, as a contract, it cannot be modified unilaterally in the future by our board of directors or the stockholders to eliminate the rights it provides.

### **Maryland Business Combination Act**

The MGCL establishes special requirements for business combinations between a Maryland corporation and interested stockholders or affiliates of interested stockholders unless exemptions are applicable. An interested stockholder is any person who beneficially owns, directly or indirectly, 10% or more of the voting power of our then-outstanding voting stock or any person who is our affiliate or associate and was the beneficial owner, directly or indirectly, of 10% or more of the voting power of our then outstanding stock at any time within the two-year period immediately prior to the date in question. 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 our 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 these 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 stock; and

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

Our board of directors has adopted a resolution exempting from the provisions of the MGCL any business combination with Mr. Samuel Zell, who is the chairman of the board of directors of our company, certain holders of operating partnership units who received them at the time of our initial public offering, the General Motors Hourly Rate Employees Pension Trust and the General Motors Salaried Employees Pension Trust, and our officers who acquired common stock at the time we were formed and each and every affiliate of theirs. However, such resolution can be altered or repealed, in whole or in part, at any time by our board of directors. This permits the board of directors to determine whether alteration or repeal is in the best interests of our company and its stockholders without the delay inherent in taking such a determination to a stockholder vote. If such resolution is repealed or the business combination is with any other person, the business combination statute could have the effect of discouraging offers to acquire us and of increasing the difficulty of consummating these offers, even if our acquisition would be in our stockholders' best interests.

### **Maryland Control Share Acquisitions Act**



The MGCL provides that control shares of a Maryland corporation acquired in a control share acquisition have no voting rights except to the extent approved at a special meeting by the affirmative vote of two-thirds of the votes entitled to be cast on the matter, excluding shares of stock owned by the acquiror, by officers or by employees who are directors of the corporation. Control shares are voting shares of stock which, if aggregated with all other such shares of stock previously acquired by the acquiror or in respect of which the acquiror is able to exercise or direct the exercise of voting power (except solely by virtue of a revocable proxy), would entitle the acquiror to exercise voting power in electing directors within one of the following ranges of voting power: (1) one-tenth or more, but less than one-third; (2) one-third or more, but less than a majority; or (3) a majority or more of all voting power. Control shares do not include shares the acquiring person is entitled to vote as a result of having previously obtained stockholder approval. A control share acquisition means the acquisition of issued and outstanding control shares, subject to certain exceptions.

## **Table of Contents**

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

If voting rights are not approved at the meeting or if the acquiring person does not deliver an acquiring person statement as required by the Maryland Control Share Acquisition Act, 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 determined, without regard to the absence of voting rights for the control shares, as of the date of any meeting of stockholders at which the voting rights of such shares are considered and not approved or, if no such meeting is held, as of the date of the last control share acquisition by the acquirer. If voting rights for control shares are approved at a stockholders meeting and the acquiror becomes entitled to vote a majority of the shares entitled to vote, all other stockholders may exercise appraisal rights. This means that you would be able to force us to redeem your stock for fair value. Under Maryland law, the fair value of the shares as determined for purposes of such appraisal rights may not be less than the highest price per share paid by the acquiror in the control share acquisition. Furthermore, certain limitations otherwise applicable to the exercise of appraisal rights would not apply in the context of a control share acquisition.

The control share acquisition statute does not apply (i) to shares acquired in a merger, consolidation or share exchange if we are a party to the transaction, or (ii) to acquisitions approved or exempted by our charter or bylaws of the corporation.

Article II Section 9 of our bylaws contains a provision exempting from the control share acquisition statute any and all acquisitions by any person of our shares of stock. We cannot assure you that such provision will not be amended or eliminated at any time in the future. If such provision is eliminated, the control share acquisition statute could have the effect of discouraging offers to acquire us and increasing the difficulty of consummating any such offers, even if our acquisition would be in our stockholders best interests.

## **Subtitle 8**

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

a classified board of directors;

a two-thirds vote requirement for removing a director;

a requirement that the number of directors be fixed only by vote of the directors;

a requirement that a vacancy on the board be filled only by the remaining directors and for the remainder of the full term of the class of directors in which the vacancy occurred; and

a majority requirement for the calling by stockholders of a special meeting of stockholders. However, through provisions in our charter and bylaws unrelated to Subtitle 8, we already (a) require a two-thirds vote for the removal of any director from the board and (b) vest in the board the exclusive power to fix the number of directorships provided that, if there is stock outstanding and so long as there are three or more stockholders, the number is not less than three.

**Table of Contents**

**Anti-Takeover Effect of Certain Provisions of Maryland Law**

The business combination provisions and the control share acquisition provisions of the MGCL and Subtitle 8 of Title 3 of the MGCL could delay, defer or prevent a transaction or a change in control of our company that might involve a premium price for stockholders or otherwise be in their best interests.

**Amendment to the Charter**

Our charter, including its provisions on removal of directors, may be amended only if approved by our stockholders by the affirmative vote of two-thirds of all of the votes entitled to be cast on the matter.

**Dissolution**

Under the MGCL, our dissolution must be approved by our stockholders by the affirmative vote of not less than two-thirds of all of the votes entitled to be cast on the matter.

**Advance Notice of Director Nominations and New Business**

Our bylaws provide that with respect to an annual meeting of stockholders, nominations of persons for election to our board of directors and the proposal of business to be considered by stockholders may be made only (1) pursuant to our notice of the meeting, (2) by or at the direction of our board of directors, or (3) by a stockholder who was a stockholder of record at the time of giving of advance notice, who is entitled to vote at the meeting and who has complied with the advance notice procedures set forth in our bylaws. Our bylaws provide that with respect to special meetings of our stockholders, only the business specified in our notice of meeting may be brought before the meeting, and nominations of persons for election to our board of directors may be made only (a) pursuant to our notice of the meeting, (b) by or at the direction of our board of directors, or (c) provided that our board of directors has determined that directors shall be elected at the meeting, by any stockholder who was a stockholder of record at the time of giving of advance notice, who is entitled to vote at the meeting and who has complied with the applicable notice procedures set forth in our bylaws.

**Table of Contents**

**THE OPERATING PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT**

*The following is a summary of material provisions in the Partnership Agreement of our Operating Partnership. For more detail, you should refer to the Partnership Agreement itself, a copy of which is filed with the SEC.*

**General**

MHC Operating Limited Partnership, or our Operating Partnership, was formed in November 1992 to acquire and own our assets. We are considered to be an umbrella partnership REIT, or an UPREIT, in which substantially all of our assets are owned directly or indirectly in a limited partnership, the Operating Partnership, of which we are the general partner. For purposes of satisfying the asset and income tests for qualification as a REIT for tax purposes, our proportionate share of the assets and income of our Operating Partnership will be deemed to be our assets and income.

Under our Partnership Agreement, our Operating Partnership is structured to make distributions with respect to operating partnership units that are equivalent to the distributions made to our common stockholders. Our Operating Partnership is structured to permit limited partners in our Operating Partnership to exchange their operating partnership units for shares of our common stock on a one-for-one basis (in a taxable transaction) and, achieve liquidity for their investment. At our discretion, in lieu of issuing common shares we may elect to pay the limited partner cash for their operating partnership units.

We are the sole general partner of the Operating Partnership. As the sole general partner of the Operating Partnership, we have the exclusive power to manage and conduct the business of the Operating Partnership and shall have the right and power to make all decisions and take any and every action with respect to the property, the business and the affairs of the Operating Partnership and shall have all the rights, power and authority generally conferred by law, or necessary, advisable or consistent with accomplishing the purposes of the Operating Partnership. All such decisions or actions made or taken by the general partner pursuant to the Partnership Agreement shall be binding upon all of the partners and the Operating Partnership.

Although currently all of our assets are held through the UPREIT structure, we may in the future elect for various reasons to hold certain of our assets directly rather than through our Operating Partnership. In the event we elect to hold assets directly, the income of our Operating Partnership will be allocated as between us and limited partners so as to take into account the performance of such assets.

**Capital Contributions**

We intend to transfer substantially all of the net proceeds from the sale of the securities offered hereby to our Operating Partnership as a capital contribution in the amount of the gross offering proceeds received from investors. The Operating Partnership will be deemed to have simultaneously paid the selling commissions and other costs associated with the offering. If the Operating Partnership requires additional funds at any time in excess of capital contributions made by us or from borrowing, we may borrow funds from third parties and lend such funds to the Operating Partnership on the same terms and conditions as are applicable to our borrowing of such funds.

**Operations**

The Partnership Agreement of the Operating Partnership provides that the Operating Partnership is to be operated in a manner that will enable us to satisfy the requirements for classification as a REIT for U.S. federal income tax purposes.

The Partnership Agreement provides that the Operating Partnership will distribute cash flow from operations to or for the benefit of the partners of the Operating Partnership of record as of the applicable Record Date (as defined in the Partnership Agreement) not less frequently than annually, and as follows: first to those partners holding Preference Units (as defined in the Partnership Agreement) to the extent of the respective priorities (if any) established by the applicable Preference Unit Term Sheets and Other Securities Term Sheets (both as defined in the Partnership Agreement); and then the balance *pro rata* among the partners holding operating

---

**Table of Contents**

partnership units and the partners holding Preference Units which, based on the provisions of the applicable Preference Unit Term Sheets and Other Securities Term Sheets, entitle the partners to participate in the distributions on a *pari passu* basis with the holders of operating partnership units, or the Residual Operating Cash Flow Preference Units, to each partner based on the quotient (expressed as a percentage) arrived at by dividing (i) the sum of the operating partnership unit value of any Residual Operating Cash Flow Preference Units held by the partner and the number of operating partnership units held by that partner by (ii) the sum of the operating partnership unit value of all Residual Operating Cash Flow Preference Units issued and outstanding at the time and the total number of operating partnership units issued and outstanding at the time. This is intended to have the effect that a holder of one unit of limited partnership interest in the Operating Partnership receives the same amount of annual cash flow distributions from the Operating Partnership as the amount of annual distributions paid to the holder of one share of our common stock.

Similarly, the Partnership Agreement of the Operating Partnership provides that taxable income is allocated to the partners of the Operating Partnership in accordance with their relative percentage interests such that a holder of one unit of limited partnership interest in the Operating Partnership will be allocated taxable income for each taxable year in an amount equal to the amount of taxable income to be recognized by a holder of one of our shares, subject to compliance with the provisions of Sections 704(b) and 704(c) of the Internal Revenue Code and corresponding Treasury Regulations. Losses, if any, will generally be allocated among the partners in accordance with their respective percentage interests in the Operating Partnership.

Upon the liquidation of the Operating Partnership, after payment of debts and obligations, any remaining assets of the Operating Partnership will be distributed to partners with positive capital accounts in accordance with their respective positive capital account balances.

All costs and expenses incurred by us in connection with our activities as the general partner under the Partnership Agreement, all costs and expenses incurred by us in connection with our continued corporate existence, qualification as a REIT under the Internal Revenue Code and otherwise, and all other liabilities incurred or suffered by us in connection with the pursuit of our business and affairs as contemplated under the Partnership Agreement, shall be paid by the Operating Partnership unless and to the extent that any such costs were paid by us in connection with the issuance of additional shares of stock of ours as contemplated in the Partnership Agreement. Notwithstanding anything to the contrary, this paragraph shall apply only to the extent that such costs, expenses or liabilities exceed any cash distributed to us by any wholly-owned subsidiary.

**Redemption Rights**

Subject to certain limitations and exceptions, in the event of a proposed repurchase or redemption for cash by us of (i) common shares, or (ii) Other Securities (as defined in the Partnership Agreement) with respect to which we had previously been issued Preference Units, then, in such event, the Operating Partnership shall provide cash to us equal to the proposed repurchase or redemption price which cash shall be distributed to us and one operating partnership unit (or, in the case of redemption or repurchase by us of other securities contemplated by clause (ii) above, one Preference Unit which had been issued with respect to the other securities) shall be cancelled with respect to each common share (or unit of Other Securities) so repurchased or redeemed. Furthermore, pursuant to our charter, these redemption rights may not be exercised, however, if and to the extent that the delivery of shares upon such exercise would (1) result in any person owning shares in excess of our ownership limits, (2) result in shares being owned by fewer than 100 persons or (3) result in us being closely held within the meaning of Section 856(h) of the Internal Revenue Code.

**Transferability of Interests**

In no event may we as general partner at any time assign, sell, transfer, pledge, hypothecate or otherwise dispose of all or any portion of our partnership interest, except by operation of law or as otherwise required or as permitted under certain circumstances set forth in the Partnership Agreement. The limited partners will not be able to transfer their interests in the Operating Partnership, in whole or in part, without our written consent as the general partner of the Operating Partnership except under certain circumstances, including but not limited to, by operation of law, testamentary disposition, gift or by sale, in each case or for the benefit of his parents(s), spouse or descendents.

- 31 -



**Table of Contents**

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

The following is a summary of the material U.S. federal income tax considerations relating to our qualification and taxation as a REIT and the acquisition, holding, and disposition of our stock. For purposes of this section, under the heading Material U.S. Federal Income Tax Considerations, references to the Company and our refer only to Equity LifeStyle Properties, Inc. and not our subsidiaries or other lower-tier entities, except as otherwise indicated. The following discussion is not exhaustive of all possible tax considerations. This summary is based upon the Internal Revenue Code, the regulations promulgated by the U.S. Treasury Department, or the Treasury regulations, current administrative interpretations and practices of the Internal Revenue Service, or the IRS, (including administrative interpretations and practices expressed in private letter rulings which are binding on the IRS only with respect to the particular taxpayers who requested and received those rulings) and judicial decisions, all as currently in effect and all of which are subject to differing interpretations or to change, possibly with retroactive effect. 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. No advance ruling has or will be sought from the IRS regarding any matter discussed in this summary, except as otherwise indicated. The summary is also based upon the assumption that the operation of our company, and of our subsidiaries and other lower-tier and affiliated entities, will, in each case, be in accordance with its applicable organizational documents. This summary is for general information only, and does not purport to discuss all aspects of U.S. federal income taxation that may be important to a particular stockholder in light of its investment or tax circumstances or to stockholders subject to special tax rules, such as:

U.S. expatriates;

persons who mark-to-market our stock;

subchapter S corporations;

U.S. stockholders (as defined below) whose functional currency is not the U.S. dollar;

financial institutions;

insurance companies;

broker-dealers;

regulated investment companies, or RICs;

trusts and estates;

holders who receive our stock through the exercise of employee stock options or otherwise as compensation;

persons holding our stock as part of a straddle, hedge, conversion transaction, synthetic security or other integrated investment;

persons subject to the alternative minimum tax provisions of the Internal Revenue Code;

persons holding their interest through a partnership or similar pass-through entity;

persons holding a 10% or more (by vote or value) beneficial interest in us;  
and, except to the extent discussed below:

tax-exempt organizations; and

Non-U.S. stockholders (as defined below).

## **Table of Contents**

This summary assumes that stockholders will hold our stock as capital assets, which generally means as property held for investment. This summary does not discuss the impact that U.S. state and local taxes and taxes imposed by non-U.S. jurisdictions could have on the matters discussed in this summary.

THE U.S. FEDERAL INCOME TAX CONSEQUENCES OF HOLDING OUR STOCK TO ANY PARTICULAR STOCKHOLDER WILL DEPEND ON THE STOCKHOLDER'S PARTICULAR TAX CIRCUMSTANCES. YOU ARE URGED TO CONSULT YOUR OWN TAX ADVISOR REGARDING THE U.S. FEDERAL, STATE, LOCAL, AND FOREIGN INCOME AND OTHER TAX CONSEQUENCES TO YOU, IN LIGHT OF YOUR PARTICULAR INVESTMENT OR TAX CIRCUMSTANCES, OF ACQUIRING, HOLDING, AND DISPOSING OF OUR STOCK.

## **Taxation of the Company**

We elected to be taxed as a REIT under the Internal Revenue Code, commencing with our taxable year ended December 31, 1993. We believe that we have been organized and have operated in a manner which allows us to qualify for taxation as a REIT under the Internal Revenue Code, and we intend to continue to be organized and operate in such a manner. In addition, each of MHC T1000 Trust, or T1000, elected to be taxed as a REIT commencing with its taxable year ended December 31, 2004 and MHC Calco Trust, which, together with T1000 for so long as T1000 is treated as a separate corporation for U.S. federal income tax purposes, form the Subsidiary REITs, elected to be taxed as a REIT commencing with its taxable year ended December 31, 2012. Each of T1000 and MHC Calco Trust believes that it was organized and operated in a manner that allowed it to qualify for taxation as a REIT under the Internal Revenue Code, and each of the Subsidiary REITs intends to continue to be organized and operate in such a manner for so long as such Subsidiary REIT is treated as a separate corporation for U.S. federal income tax purposes.

We hold a substantial amount of our assets in Subsidiary REITs. Our Subsidiary REITs are each organized to qualify as a REIT for U.S. federal income tax purposes for so long as such Subsidiary REIT is treated as a separate corporation for U.S. federal income tax purposes. Accordingly, our continued qualification and taxation as a REIT depends on, in addition to our ability to meet, on a continuing basis, through actual results of operations, distribution levels and diversity of stock ownership, various qualification requirements imposed upon REITs by the Internal Revenue Code, our private REITs' operating results, organizational structure and each Subsidiary REIT's ability to meet, on a continuing basis through actual annual results of operations, the various qualification requirements imposed upon REITs by the Internal Revenue Code (including satisfying both the 95% and 75% gross income tests on an annual basis and the REIT asset tests at the close of each calendar quarter, as described below).

In the opinion of Clifford Chance US LLP, commencing with our taxable year ended December 31, 2014, we have been organized and operated in conformity with the requirements for qualification and taxation as a REIT under the Internal Revenue Code, and our current method of operation will enable us to continue to meet the requirements for qualification and taxation as a REIT under the Internal Revenue Code. It must be emphasized that the opinion of Clifford Chance US LLP is based on various assumptions relating to our organization and operation, including that all factual representations and statements set forth in all relevant documents, records and instruments are true and correct, and that we will at all times operate in accordance with the method of operation described in our organizational documents and this prospectus, and is conditioned upon factual representations and covenants made by us, regarding our organization, assets, present and future conduct of our business operations and other items requiring our ability to meet the various requirements for qualification as a REIT, and assumes that such representations and covenants are accurate and complete and that we will take no action inconsistent with our qualification as a REIT. In connection with certain transactions, we have received, and relied, on advice of counsel as to the impact of such transactions on our qualification as a REIT. Our qualification as a REIT requires analysis of various facts and circumstances that may

not be entirely within our control, and we cannot provide any assurance that the IRS will agree with our analysis or the analysis of our tax counsel. In particular, the proper U.S. federal income tax treatment of right-to-use contracts is uncertain and there is no assurance that the IRS will agree with the Company's treatment of such contracts. If the IRS were to disagree with our analysis or our tax counsel's analysis regarding matters relevant to our REIT qualification, our ability to qualify as a REIT may be adversely impacted. While we believe that we have been organized and operated and intend to continue to operate so that we will qualify as a REIT, given the highly complex nature of the rules governing REITs, the ongoing importance of factual determinations and the possibility of future changes in our circumstances or applicable law, no assurance can be given by Clifford Chance US LLP or us that we will so qualify for any particular year. Clifford Chance US LLP's opinion does not foreclose the possibility that we may have to utilize one or more of the REIT savings provisions discussed below, which could require us to pay an excise or penalty tax (which could be significant in amount) in order to maintain our REIT qualification. Clifford Chance US LLP will have no obligation to advise us or the holders of our stock of any subsequent change in the matters stated, represented or assumed or of any subsequent change in the applicable law. You should be aware that opinions of counsel are not binding on the IRS, and no assurance can be given that the IRS will not challenge the conclusions set forth in such opinions.

## **Table of Contents**

Qualification and taxation as a REIT depends on our and each Subsidiary REIT's ability to meet, on a continuing basis, through actual results of operations, distribution levels and diversity of stock ownership, various qualification requirements imposed upon REITs by the Internal Revenue Code, the results of which will not be reviewed by Clifford Chance US LLP. No assurance can be given that our or each Subsidiary REIT's actual result for any particular taxable year will satisfy these requirements. In addition, qualification as a REIT depends on future transactions and events that cannot be known at this time.

### **Taxation of REITs in General**

As indicated above, qualification and taxation as a REIT depends upon our and each Subsidiary REIT's ability to meet, on a continuing basis, various qualification requirements imposed upon REITs by the Internal Revenue Code. The material qualification requirements are summarized below, under Requirements for Qualification General. While we intend to operate so that we and each Subsidiary REIT qualify as a REIT for so long as such Subsidiary REIT is treated as a separate corporation for U.S. federal income tax purposes, no assurance can be given that the IRS will not challenge our or each Subsidiary REIT qualification as a REIT or that we or each Subsidiary REIT's will be able to operate in accordance with the REIT requirements in the future. See Failure to Qualify.

Provided that we and each Subsidiary REIT qualify as a REIT, we will generally be entitled to a deduction for dividends that we pay and, therefore, will not be subject to U.S. federal corporate income tax on our net income that is currently distributed to our stockholders. This treatment substantially eliminates the double taxation at the corporate and stockholder levels that generally results from an investment in a corporation. Rather, income generated by a REIT generally is taxed only at the stockholder level upon a distribution of dividends by the REIT.

Non-corporate U.S. stockholders (as defined below) are generally taxed on corporate dividends at a maximum rate of 20% (the same as long-term capital gains), thereby substantially reducing, though not completely eliminating, the double taxation that has historically applied to corporate dividends. With limited exceptions, however, ordinary dividends received by non-corporate U.S. stockholders (as defined below) from us or from other entities that are taxed as REITs will continue to be taxed at rates applicable to ordinary income, which will be as high as 39.6%.

Net operating losses, foreign tax credits and other tax attributes of a REIT generally do not pass through to the stockholders of the REIT, subject to special rules for certain items, such as capital gains, recognized by REITs. See Taxation of Stockholders.

If we qualify as a REIT, we will nonetheless be subject to U.S. federal income tax in the following circumstances:

We will be taxed at regular corporate rates on any undistributed net taxable income, including undistributed net capital gains.

We may be subject to the alternative minimum tax on our items of tax preference, if any.

If we have net income from prohibited transactions, which are, in general, sales or other dispositions of property held primarily for sale to customers in the ordinary course of business, other than foreclosure property, such income will be subject to a 100% tax. See Prohibited Transactions, and Foreclosure Property, below.

If we elect to treat property that we acquire in connection with a foreclosure of a mortgage loan or from certain leasehold terminations as foreclosure property, we may thereby avoid (a) the 100% tax on gain from a resale of that property (if the sale would otherwise constitute a prohibited transaction) and (b) the inclusion of any income from such property not qualifying for purposes of the REIT gross income tests discussed below, but the income from the sale or operation of the property may be subject to corporate income tax at the highest applicable rate (currently 35%).

- 34 -

**Table of Contents**

If we fail to satisfy the 75% gross income test or the 95% gross income test, as discussed below, but nonetheless maintain our qualification as a REIT because other requirements are met, we will be subject to a 100% tax on an amount equal to (a) the greater of (1) the amount by which we fail the 75% gross income test or (2) the amount by which we fail the 95% gross income test, as the case may be, multiplied by (b) a fraction intended to reflect our profitability.

If we fail to satisfy any of the REIT asset tests, as described below, other than a failure of the 5% or 10% asset tests that do not exceed a statutory *de minimis* amount, but our failure is due to reasonable cause and not due to willful neglect and we nonetheless maintain our REIT qualification because of specified cure provisions, we will be required to pay a tax equal to the greater of \$50,000 or the highest corporate tax rate (currently 35%) of the net income generated by the nonqualifying assets during the period in which we failed to satisfy the asset tests.

If we fail to satisfy any provision of the Internal Revenue Code that would result in our failure to qualify as a REIT (other than a gross income or asset test requirement) and the violation is due to reasonable cause and not due to willful neglect, we may retain our REIT qualification but we will be required to pay a penalty of \$50,000 for each such failure.

If we fail to distribute during any calendar year at least the sum of (a) 85% of our ordinary income for such year, (b) 95% of our capital gain net income for such year and (c) any undistributed taxable income from prior periods (the **required distribution**), we will be subject to a 4% excise tax on the excess of the required distribution over the sum of (1) the amounts actually distributed (taking into account excess distributions from prior years), plus (2) retained amounts on which income tax is paid at the corporate level.

We may be required to pay monetary penalties to the IRS in certain circumstances, including if we fail to meet record-keeping requirements intended to monitor our compliance with rules relating to the composition of our stockholders, as described below in **Requirements for Qualification General**.

A 100% excise tax may be imposed on some items of income and expense that are directly or constructively paid between us, our tenants and our taxable REIT subsidiaries (**TRSs**) (as described below), if and to the extent that the IRS successfully adjusts the reported amounts of these items.

If we acquire appreciated assets from a subchapter C corporation (generally a corporation that is not a REIT, a RIC or a subchapter S corporation) in a transaction in which the adjusted tax basis of the assets in our hands is determined by reference to the adjusted tax basis of the assets in the hands of the subchapter C corporation, we will be subject to tax at the highest corporate income tax rate then applicable on any gain from the disposition of such assets to the extent of the excess of the fair market value of the assets on the date they were acquired by us over the basis of such assets on such date if we dispose of any such assets during the 5-year period following our acquisition of the assets from the subchapter C corporation. The results described in this paragraph assume that the subchapter C corporation will not elect, in lieu of this treatment, to be subject to an immediate tax when the asset is acquired by us. Gain from the sale of property which we acquire in an exchange under Section 1031 (a like kind exchange) or 1033 (an involuntary

conversion) of the Internal Revenue Code is generally excluded from the application of this built-in-gains tax.

We may elect to retain and pay income tax on our net long-term capital gain. In that case, a stockholder would include its proportionate share of our undistributed long-term capital gain (to the extent we make a timely designation of such gain to the stockholder) in its income, would be deemed to have paid the tax that we paid on such gain, and would be allowed a credit for its proportionate share of the tax deemed to have been paid, and an adjustment would be made to increase the stockholder's basis in our stock.



## **Table of Contents**

We may have subsidiaries or own interests in other lower-tier entities that are subchapter C corporations, the earnings of which could be subject to U.S. federal corporate income tax.

In addition, we and our subsidiaries may be subject to a variety of taxes other than U.S. federal income tax, including payroll taxes and state, local, and foreign income, property and other taxes on assets and operations. As further described below, any TRS in which we own an interest will be subject to U.S. federal 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 General**

The Internal Revenue Code defines a REIT as a corporation, trust or association:

- (1) that is managed by one or more trustees or directors;
- (2) the beneficial ownership of which is evidenced by transferable shares or by transferable certificates of beneficial interest;
- (3) that would be taxable as a domestic corporation but for the special Internal Revenue Code provisions applicable to REITs;
- (4) that is neither a financial institution nor an insurance company subject to specific provisions of the Internal Revenue Code;
- (5) the beneficial ownership of which is held by 100 or more persons;
- (6) in which, during the last half of each taxable year, not more than 50% in value of the outstanding stock is owned, directly or indirectly, by five or fewer individuals (as defined in the Internal Revenue Code to include specified entities);
- (7) which meets other tests described below, including with respect to the nature of its income and assets and the amount of its distributions; and
- (8) that makes an election to be a REIT for the current taxable year or has made such an election for a previous taxable year that has not been terminated or revoked.

The Internal Revenue Code provides that conditions (1) through (4) must be met during the entire taxable year, and that condition (5) must be met during at least 335 days of a taxable year of 12 months, or during a proportionate part of a shorter taxable year. Conditions (5) and (6) do not need to be satisfied for the first taxable year for which an election to become a REIT has been made. Our charter provides restrictions regarding the ownership and transfer of its shares, which are intended to assist in satisfying the share ownership requirements described in conditions (5) and (6) above. For purposes of condition (6), an individual generally includes a supplemental unemployment

compensation benefit plan, a private foundation or a portion of a trust permanently set aside or used exclusively for charitable purposes, but does not include a qualified pension plan or profit sharing trust.

To monitor compliance with the share ownership requirements, we are generally 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, in which the record holders are to disclose the actual owners of the shares, *i.e.*, the persons required to include in gross income the dividends paid by us. A list of those persons failing or refusing to comply with this demand must be maintained as part of our records. Failure by us to comply with these record-keeping requirements could subject us to monetary penalties. If we satisfy these requirements and have no reason to know that condition (6) is not satisfied, we will be deemed to have satisfied such condition. A stockholder that fails or refuses to comply with the demand is required by Treasury regulations to submit a statement with its tax return disclosing the actual ownership of the shares and other information.

In addition, a corporation generally may not elect to become a REIT unless its taxable year is the calendar year. We satisfy this requirement.

**Table of Contents****Effect of Subsidiary Entities**

***Ownership of Partnership Interests.*** In the case of a REIT that is a partner in a partnership, such as our Operating Partnership, Treasury regulations provide that the REIT is deemed to own its proportionate share of the partnership's assets and to earn its proportionate share of the partnership's gross income based on its *pro rata* share of capital interest in the partnership for purposes of the asset and gross income tests applicable to REITs, as described below. However, solely for purposes of the 10% value test, described below, the determination of a REIT's interest in partnership assets will be based on the REIT's proportionate interest in any securities issued by the partnership, excluding for these purposes, certain excluded securities described in the Internal Revenue Code. In addition, the assets and gross income of the partnership generally are deemed to retain the same character in the hands of the REIT. Thus, our and each Subsidiary REIT's proportionate share of the assets and items of income of partnerships in which it owns an equity interest, including the Operating Partnership, is treated as assets and items of income of it for purposes of applying the REIT requirements described below. Consequently, to the extent that we or a Subsidiary REIT directly or indirectly hold a preferred or other equity interest in a partnership, the partnership's assets and operations may affect our or a Subsidiary REIT's ability to qualify as a REIT, even though we or it may have no control or only limited influence over the partnership.

***Entity Classification.*** The investment by us in partnerships involves special tax considerations, including the possibility of a challenge by the IRS of the status of any of our subsidiary partnerships as a partnership, as opposed to an association taxable as a corporation, for U.S. federal income tax purposes. If any of these entities were treated as an association for U.S. federal income tax purposes, it would be taxable as a corporation and, therefore, could be subject to an entity-level tax on its income.

Pursuant to Section 7704 of the Internal Revenue Code, a partnership that does not elect to be treated as a corporation nevertheless will be treated as a corporation for U.S. federal income tax purposes if it is a publicly traded partnership and it does not receive at least 90% of its gross income from certain specified sources of qualifying income within the meaning of that section. A publicly traded partnership is any partnership (i) the interests in which are traded on an established securities market or (ii) the interests in which are readily tradable on a secondary market or the substantial equivalent thereof. Although units of our Operating Partnership are not traded on an established securities market, there is a significant risk that the right of a holder of such units to redeem the units for our common stock or, at our option, cash, could cause the units to be considered readily tradable on the substantial equivalent of a secondary market. If our Operating Partnership were a publicly traded partnership, it would be taxed as a corporation unless at least 90% of its gross income consisted of qualifying income under Section 7704 of the Internal Revenue Code. Qualifying income is generally real property rents and other types of passive income. We believe that our Operating Partnership has sufficient qualifying income so that it would be taxed as a partnership even if it were a publicly traded partnership. The income requirements applicable to us to qualify as a REIT under the Internal Revenue Code and the definition of qualifying income under the publicly traded partnership rules are very similar. Although differences exist between these two income tests, we do not believe that these differences would cause our Operating Partnership not to satisfy the 90% gross income test applicable to publicly traded partnerships.

If our Operating Partnership were taxable as a corporation, the character of our assets and items of our gross income would change and could preclude us from satisfying the REIT asset tests (particularly the tests generally preventing a REIT from owning more than 10% of the voting securities, or more than 10% of the value of the securities, of a corporation) or the gross income tests as discussed in Requirements for Qualification General Asset Tests and Gross Income Tests below, and in turn could prevent us from qualifying as a REIT. See Failure to Qualify, below, for a discussion of the effect of our failure to meet these tests for a taxable year. In addition, any change in the status of any of our subsidiary partnerships for tax purposes might be treated as a taxable event, in which case we could have taxable income that is subject to the REIT distribution requirements without receiving any cash.

***Disregarded Subsidiaries.*** If a REIT owns a corporate subsidiary that is a qualified REIT subsidiary, that subsidiary is disregarded for U.S. federal income tax purposes, and all assets, liabilities and items of income, deduction and credit of the subsidiary are treated as assets, liabilities and items of income, deduction and credit of the REIT itself, including for purposes of the gross income and asset tests applicable to REITs, as summarized below. A qualified REIT subsidiary is any corporation, other than a TRS (as described below), that is wholly-owned by a REIT, by other disregarded subsidiaries of the REIT or by a combination of the two. Single member limited liability companies that are wholly-owned by a REIT that have not elected to be taxed as corporations for U.S. federal income tax purposes are also generally disregarded as separate entities for U.S. federal income tax purposes, including for purposes of the REIT gross income and asset tests. Disregarded subsidiaries, along with partnerships in which we or a Subsidiary REIT hold an equity interest, are sometimes referred to herein as pass-through subsidiaries.

---

**Table of Contents**

In the event that a disregarded subsidiary ceases to be wholly-owned by us or a Subsidiary REIT (for example, if any equity interest in the subsidiary is acquired by a person, including another REIT, other than us or another disregarded subsidiary of us) the subsidiary's separate existence would no longer be disregarded for U.S. federal income tax purposes. Instead, it 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 or a Subsidiary REIT's ability to satisfy the various asset and gross income tests applicable to REITs, including the requirement that REITs generally may not own, directly or indirectly, more than 10% of the value or voting power of the outstanding securities of another corporation. See [Asset Tests](#) and [Gross Income Tests](#).

***Taxable REIT Subsidiaries.*** A REIT, in general, may jointly elect with a subsidiary corporation, whether or not wholly-owned, to treat the subsidiary corporation as a TRS. The separate existence of a TRS or other taxable corporation, unlike a disregarded subsidiary as discussed above, is not ignored for U.S. federal income tax purposes. Accordingly, such an entity would generally be subject to corporate income tax 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 its 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 through pass-through subsidiaries or render commercially unfeasible (for example, activities that give rise to certain categories of income such as fees for certain non-customary services to REIT tenants, nonqualifying hedging income or inventory sales). If dividends are paid to us by one or more of our TRSs, then a portion of the dividends that we distribute to stockholders who are taxed at individual rates generally will be eligible for taxation at preferential qualified dividend income tax rates rather than at ordinary income rates. See [Taxation of Taxable U.S. Stockholders](#) [Distributions](#).

Certain restrictions imposed on TRSs are intended to ensure that such entities will be subject to appropriate levels of U.S. federal income taxation. First, a TRS may not deduct interest payments made in any year to an affiliated REIT to the extent that such payments exceed, generally, 50% of the TRS's adjusted taxable income for that year (although the TRS may carry forward to, and deduct in, a succeeding year the disallowed interest amount if the 50% test is satisfied in that year). In addition, if amounts are paid to a REIT or deducted by a TRS due to transactions between a REIT, its tenants and/or 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.

Rents we receive that include amounts for services furnished by one of our TRSs to any of our tenants will not be subject to the excise tax if such amounts qualify for the safe harbor provisions contained in the Internal Revenue Code. Safe harbor provisions are provided where (1) amounts are excluded from the definition of impermissible tenant service income as a result of satisfying the 1% *de minimis* exception; (2) a TRS renders a significant amount of similar services to unrelated parties and the charges for such services are substantially comparable; (3) rents paid to us by tenants leasing at least 25% of the leasable space at the property that are not receiving services from the TRS are substantially comparable to the rents paid by our tenants leasing comparable space that are receiving such services from the TRS and the charge for the services is separately stated; or (4) the TRS's gross income from the service is not less than 150% of the TRS's direct cost of furnishing the service. We intend to structure any transactions with any of our TRSs on terms that we believe to be arm's length to avoid incurring this 100% excise tax, but there can be no assurance that we will be able to avoid its application in all circumstances.



**Table of Contents**

We have jointly made elections with several of our corporate subsidiaries for such subsidiaries to be treated as TRSs for U.S. federal income tax purposes. In addition, following the Company's restructuring on February 27, 2004, MHC Trust, along with such corporate subsidiaries, made elections for those subsidiaries to be treated as TRSs of MHC Trust for U.S. federal income tax purposes. Following the liquidation of MHC Trust, the Company, along with such corporate subsidiaries, made elections for these subsidiaries to be treated as TRSs of the Company for U.S. federal income tax purposes. We and the Subsidiary REITs may form additional TRSs in the future. To the extent that any such TRSs pay any taxes, they will have less cash available for distribution to us. If dividends are paid by TRSs to us, then the dividends we designate and pay to our individual U.S. stockholders, as defined below, up to the amount of dividends we receive from such entities, generally will be eligible to be taxed at the reduced 20% maximum U.S. federal rate applicable to qualified dividend income. See *Taxation of Taxable U.S. Stockholders' Distributions*. Currently, we anticipate that our TRSs will retain their after tax income, subject to our compliance with the 25% asset test (20% for our taxable years beginning after December 31, 2017) applicable to our aggregate ownership of TRSs, as discussed below under *Asset Tests*.

*Ownership of Subsidiary REITs.* Pursuant to the Company's restructuring on February 27, 2004, the Company contributed all of its assets, including its entire interest in the Operating Partnership, to MHC Trust in exchange for substantially all of the common and preferred stock of MHC Trust. On December 31, 2013, MHC Trust was merged into the Company in a transaction treated as a tax-deferred liquidation of MHC Trust under Section 332 of the Internal Revenue Code. Following the restructuring, MHC Trust elected to be treated as a REIT under the Internal Revenue Code, and through the date of the merger, MHC Trust, and not the Company, was treated as holding the properties and other assets that constituted the operations of the Company, and as receiving any income earned from such assets and operations for U.S. federal income tax purposes. During this period, all of the Company's assets consisted of shares in MHC Trust and all of its income consisted of dividends received on shares of MHC Trust. Accordingly, the Company's qualification as a REIT depended on MHC Trust satisfying the requirements for qualification as a REIT described above, and both the 95% and 75% gross income tests on an annual basis and the REIT asset tests at the close of each calendar quarter, as described more fully below. If MHC Trust were to have failed to qualify for taxation as a REIT in any taxable year, the Company would also have failed to qualify for taxation as a REIT for such taxable year. See *Failure to Qualify*. On December 31, 2013, MHC Trust was merged into the Company and ceased to exist.

Similarly, following the acquisition of T1000 by the Operating Partnership, T1000 has operated and intends to continue to operate in such a manner as to qualify for taxation as a REIT under the Internal Revenue Code for so long as T1000 is treated as a separate corporation for U.S. federal income tax purposes. MHC Calco Trust has also operated and intends to continue to operate in such a manner as to qualify for taxation as a REIT under the Internal Revenue Code. Distributions treated as received by the Company from T1000 or MHC Calco Trust, as the case may be, that are treated as dividend income for U.S. federal income tax purposes (as opposed to tax-free returns of capital), will be qualifying income for purposes of both the 95% and 75% gross income test requirements applicable to the Company, and shares in T1000 or MHC Calco Trust, as the case may be, owned indirectly by the Company will be qualifying real estate assets for purposes of the REIT asset test requirements applicable to the Company, only to the extent that T1000 or MHC Calco Trust, as the case may be, qualifies for taxation as a REIT. See *Gross Income Tests*, and *Asset Tests*. The Company and T1000 or MHC Calco Trust, as the case may be, will make an annual protective joint election effective on or before the close of the first quarter of the calendar year, to treat T1000 or MHC Calco Trust, as the case may be, as a TRS of the Company for so long as such entity is treated as a separate corporation for U.S. federal income tax purposes. The protective TRS election is to be effective only if T1000 or MHC Calco Trust, as the case may be, were to fail to qualify as a REIT for the taxable year in which the protective TRS election is in place, and is not intended as a revocation of T1000's or MHC Calco Trust's, as the case may be, election to qualify for taxation as a REIT. If T1000 or MHC Calco Trust, as the case may be, were to fail to qualify for taxation as a REIT in any taxable year in which such entity is treated as a separate corporation for U.S. federal income tax purposes, distributions received by the Company from T1000 or MHC Calco Trust, as the case may be, that are treated as

dividend income for U.S. federal income tax purposes (as opposed to tax-free returns of capital), will be qualifying income for purposes of the 95% gross income test, but not the 75% gross income test, and shares in T1000 or MHC Calco Trust, as the case may be, owned indirectly by the Company will not be qualifying real estate assets for purposes of the REIT asset tests. Moreover, if T1000 or MHC Calco Trust, as the case may be, were to fail to qualify for taxation as a REIT for any taxable year, in which such entity is treated as a separate corporation for U.S. federal income tax purposes, the value of the stock or securities indirectly held by the Company in T1000 or MHC Calco Trust, as the case may be, would be included in the TRS asset test described above and would be treated as a nonqualifying asset for purposes of the REIT asset tests described below.



---

**Table of Contents****Gross Income Tests**

In order to maintain qualification as a REIT, we and each Subsidiary REIT annually must satisfy two gross income tests. *First*, at least 75% of our and each Subsidiary REIT's gross income for each taxable year, excluding gross income from sales of inventory or dealer property in prohibited transactions, and certain hedging and foreign currency transactions, must be derived from investments relating to real property or mortgages on real property, including rents from real property, dividends received from and gain from the disposition of shares of other REITs, interest income derived from mortgage loans secured by real property (including certain types of mortgage-backed securities), and gains from the sale of real estate assets (other than income or gains with respect to debt instruments issued by public REITs that are not otherwise secured by real property), as well as income from certain kinds of temporary investments. *Second*, at least 95% of our and each Subsidiary REIT's gross income in each taxable year, excluding gross income from prohibited transactions, must be derived from some combination of income that qualifies under the 75% income test described above, as well as other dividends, interest, and gain from the sale or disposition of stock or securities, which need not have any relation to real property.

For purposes of the 75% and 95% gross income tests, a REIT is deemed to have earned a proportionate share of the income earned by any partnership, limited liability company or other entity treated as a partnership for U.S. federal income tax purposes, in which it owns an interest, which share is determined by reference to its capital interest in such entity, and is deemed to have earned the income earned by any qualified REIT subsidiary.

***Dividend Income.*** Dividends received (directly or indirectly) from a REIT, to the extent of the current and accumulated earnings and profits of the distributing REIT, will be qualifying income for purposes of both the 95% and 75% gross income tests. Distributions received (directly or indirectly) from TRSs or other corporations that are not REITs or qualified REIT subsidiaries will be classified as dividend income to the extent of the current and accumulated earnings and profits of the distributing corporation. Such distributions will generally constitute qualifying income for purposes of the 95% gross income test, but not for purposes of the 75% gross income test.

***Rents from Real Property.*** Rents received will qualify as rents from real property in satisfying the gross income tests described above, only if several conditions are met, including the following. If rent attributable to personal property leased in connection with real property is greater than 15% of the total rent received under any particular lease, then all of the rent attributable to such personal property will not qualify as rents from real property. The determination of whether an item of personal property constitutes real or personal property under the REIT provisions of the Internal Revenue Code is subject to both legal and factual considerations and is therefore subject to different interpretations.

In addition, in order for rents received by us or a Subsidiary REIT to qualify as rents from real property, the rent must not be based in whole or in part on the income or profits of any person. However, an amount will not be excluded from rents from real property solely by reason of being based on a fixed percentage or percentages of receipts or sales or being based on the net income of a tenant which derives substantially all of its income with respect to such property from subleasing of substantially all of such property, to the extent that the rents paid by the subtenants would qualify as rents from real property, if earned directly by us or a Subsidiary REIT. Moreover, for rents received to qualify as rents from real property, we or a Subsidiary REIT generally must not operate or manage the property or furnish or render certain services to the tenants of such property, other than through an independent contractor who is adequately compensated and from which we derive no income, or through a TRS, as discussed below. We or a Subsidiary REIT are permitted, however, to perform services that are usually or customarily rendered in connection with the rental of space for occupancy only and are not otherwise considered rendered to the occupant of the property. In addition, we or a Subsidiary REIT may directly or indirectly provide non-customary services to tenants of our properties if the gross income from such services does not exceed 1% of the total gross income from the property for the relevant taxable year. In such a case, only the amounts for non-customary services are not treated as rents from real property and the

provision of the services does not otherwise disqualify the income from treatment as rents from real property. If, however, the gross income from such non-customary services exceeds this 1% threshold, none of the gross income derived from the relevant property is treated as rents from real property. For purposes of this test, the gross income received from such non-customary services is deemed to be at least 150% of the direct cost of providing the services. Moreover, we or a Subsidiary REIT are permitted to provide services to tenants or others through a TRS without generally disqualifying the rental income received from tenants for purposes of the REIT income tests. Whether a service is provided by a TRS as opposed to by us or a Subsidiary REIT generally depends on the surrounding facts. We provide certain non-customary services to certain tenants of our properties through our TRSs. However, no assurance can be provided that the IRS could not successfully assert that these services are provided by us a Subsidiary REIT, rather than a TRS, which could adversely impact our qualification with the REIT gross income tests.

---

**Table of Contents**

Rental income will qualify as rents from real property only to the extent that we or a Subsidiary REIT do not directly or constructively own, (1) in the case of any tenant which is a corporation, stock possessing 10% or more of the total combined voting power of all classes of stock entitled to vote, or 10% or more of the total value of shares of all classes of stock of such tenant, or (2) in the case of any tenant which is not a corporation, an interest of 10% or more in the assets or net profits of such tenant. However, rental payments from a TRS will qualify as rents from real property even if we or a Subsidiary REIT own more than 10% of the total value or combined voting power of the TRS if at least 90% of the property is leased to unrelated tenants and the rent paid by the TRS is substantially comparable to the rent paid by the unrelated tenants for comparable space. The IRS has held in certain private rulings that, where there is no other space at the property that is comparable to the space leased to the TRS, the rent paid by the TRS can be qualifying income if it is comparable to the rent paid by tenants of comparable spaces in the same geographic area as the property. Certain of the properties that we hold directly or through joint ventures lease space to our TRSs. We believe that at least 90% of these properties are generally leased to unrelated tenants and the rents paid by the TRSs with respect to these properties are substantially comparable to the rent paid by unrelated tenants for comparable space at the property or the rent paid by unrelated tenants for comparable space in the same geographic area as these properties. However, no assurance can be provided that the IRS could not successfully challenge these aspects of the leases to our TRSs. In certain instances we have leased space in our properties to a TRS that constitutes more than 10% of the leased space at the properties, and in these instances we treat the rental income from our TRS as nonqualifying income for purposes of the REIT gross income tests.

In the past, our Operating Partnership and T1000 net leased their membership campground properties to an independent operator in exchange for rental payments. In order for the rent payable under the lease to constitute rents from real property, the lease must be respected as a true lease for U.S. federal income tax purposes and not treated as a service contract, joint venture or some other type of arrangement. The determination of whether leases are true leases depends on an analysis of all the surrounding facts and circumstances. We, our Operating Partnership and T1000 believe that the lease was properly treated as a true lease for U.S. federal income tax purposes. If the net lease were characterized as a service contract or partnership agreement, rather than as a true lease, part or all of the payments that our Operating Partnership and T1000 received as rent from the lessee may not be considered rent or may not otherwise have satisfied the requirements for qualification as rents from real property. In that case, we, MHC Trust and our Subsidiary REITs may not have been able to satisfy either the 75% or 95% gross income tests and, as a result, each could have failed to qualify as a REIT. Our Operating Partnership and T1000 have since terminated this lease and have received advice from tax counsel that income received pursuant to the current right-to-use and membership contracts entered into in connection with its membership campgrounds property should not adversely impact each of our or our Subsidiary REITs' qualification as a REIT.

**Interest Income.** Interest income constitutes qualifying mortgage interest for purposes of the 75% gross income test to the extent that the obligation is secured by a mortgage on real property. If we or a Subsidiary REIT receive interest income with respect to a mortgage loan that is secured by both real property and other property, and the highest principal amount of the loan outstanding during a taxable year exceeds the fair market value of the real property on the date that we acquired or originated the mortgage loan, then, subject to the exception described below, the interest income will be apportioned between the real property and the other property, and our or a Subsidiary REIT's income from the arrangement will qualify for purposes of the 75% gross income test only to the extent that the interest is allocable to the real property. If a loan is secured by both real property and personal property and the fair market value of the personal property does not exceed 15% of the fair market value of all real and personal property securing the loan, the loan is treated as secured solely by the real property for purposes of these rules. Even if a loan is not secured by real property or is undersecured, the income that it generates may nonetheless qualify for purposes of the 95% gross income test.

To the extent that the terms of a loan provide for contingent interest that is based on the cash proceeds realized upon the sale of the property securing the loan, or a shared appreciation provision, income attributable to the participation feature will be treated as gain from sale of the underlying property, which generally will be qualifying income for purposes of both the 75% and 95% gross income tests, provided that the property is not inventory or dealer property in the hands of the borrower or us.

---

**Table of Contents**

To the extent that we derive interest income from a loan where all or a portion of the amount of interest payable is contingent, such income generally will qualify for purposes of the gross income tests only if it is based upon the gross receipts or sales and not the net income or profits of any person.

**Foreign Investments.** To the extent that we or a Subsidiary REIT make investments or incur obligations in currencies other than the U.S. dollar, such investments may generate foreign currency gains and losses. Foreign currency gains are generally treated as income that does not qualify under the 95% or 75% gross income tests. Foreign currency gain that qualifies as real estate foreign exchange gain is excluded from both the 75% and 95% income tests, while income from foreign currency gains that qualifies as passive foreign exchange gain is excluded from the 95% income test, but is treated as non-qualifying income for the 75% income test.

Real estate foreign exchange gain is foreign currency gain attributable to (i) any item of income or gain which qualifies for purposes of the 75% income test, (ii) the acquisition or ownership of obligations secured by mortgages on real property or interests in real property; or (iii) becoming or being the obligor under debt obligations secured by mortgages on real property or on interests in real property. Real estate foreign exchange gain also includes foreign currency gain attributable to a qualified business unit, or QBU, of the REIT if the QBU meets the 75% income test for the taxable year and the 75% asset test at the close of each quarter of the taxable year that the REIT directly or indirectly owned an interest in the QBU. Passive foreign exchange gain includes all real estate foreign exchange gain plus foreign currency gain attributable to (i) any item of income or gain which qualifies for purposes of the 95% income test, (ii) the acquisition or ownership of debt obligations and (iii) becoming or being the obligor under debt obligations. The Treasury Department has the authority to expand the definition of real estate foreign exchange gain and passive foreign exchange gain to include other items of foreign currency gain. No assurance can be given that any foreign currency gains recognized by us or a Subsidiary REIT directly or through pass-through subsidiaries will not adversely affect our or a Subsidiary REIT's ability to satisfy the REIT qualification requirements.

**Failure to Satisfy the Gross Income Tests.** We intend to monitor our and each Subsidiary REIT's sources of income, including any non-qualifying income received by us or a Subsidiary REIT, so as to ensure our and each Subsidiary REIT's compliance with the gross income tests. If we or a Subsidiary REIT fail to satisfy one or both of the 75% or 95% gross income tests for any taxable year, we or a Subsidiary REIT may still qualify as a REIT for the year if we or a Subsidiary REIT are entitled to relief under applicable provisions of the Internal Revenue Code. These relief provisions will generally be available if the failure of our company or a Subsidiary REIT to meet these tests was due to reasonable cause and not due to willful neglect and, following the identification of such failure, we or a Subsidiary REIT set forth a description of each item of our or a Subsidiary REIT's gross income that satisfies the gross income tests in a schedule for the taxable year filed in accordance with Treasury regulations. It is not possible to state whether we or a Subsidiary REIT would be entitled to the benefit of these relief provisions in all circumstances. If these relief provisions are inapplicable to a particular set of circumstances involving us or a Subsidiary REIT, we will not qualify as a REIT. As discussed above under Taxation of REITs in General, even where these relief provisions apply, a tax would be imposed upon the profit attributable to the amount by which we or a Subsidiary REIT fail to satisfy the particular gross income test.

**Asset Tests**

We and each Subsidiary REIT, at the close of each calendar quarter, must also satisfy five tests relating to the nature of our assets. *First*, at least 75% of the value of our total assets must be represented by some combination of real estate assets, cash, cash items, U.S. government securities and, under some circumstances, stock or debt instruments purchased with new capital. For this purpose, real estate assets include interests in real property (such as land, buildings, leasehold interests in real property), stock of other REITs (such as the Subsidiary REITs), certain kinds of mortgage-backed securities and mortgage loans and debt instruments issued by publicly offered REITs, interests in

obligations secured by both real property and personal property if the fair market value of the personal property does not exceed 15% of the total fair market value securing such mortgage, and personal property to the extent income from such personal property is treated as rents from real property because the personal property is rented in connection with a rental of real property and constitutes less than 15% of the aggregate property rented. Assets that do not qualify for purposes of the 75% asset test are subject to the additional asset tests described below.

*Second*, the value of any one issuer's securities owned by us may not exceed 5% of the value of our gross assets. *Third*, we or any of our Subsidiary REITs may not own more than 10% of any one issuer's outstanding

---

**Table of Contents**

securities, as measured by either (a) voting power (the **10% voting test**) or (b) value (the **10% value test**). *Fourth*, the aggregate value of all securities of TRSs held by us or any of our Subsidiary REITs may not exceed 25% (20% for tax years beginning after December 31, 2017) of the value of our or any of our Subsidiary REIT's gross assets. *Fifth*, the aggregate value of debt instruments issued by publicly offered REITs held by us that are not otherwise secured by real property may not exceed 25% of the value of our total assets.

The 5% and 10% asset tests do not apply to securities of TRSs, qualified REIT subsidiaries or securities that are real estate assets for purposes of the 75% asset test described above. In addition, the 10% value test does not apply to certain straight debt and other excluded securities described in the Internal Revenue Code, including, but not limited to, any loan to an individual or an estate, any obligation to pay rents from real property and any security issued by a REIT. In addition, (a) a REIT's interest as a partner in a partnership is not considered a security for purposes of applying the 10% value test; (b) any debt instrument issued by a partnership (other than straight debt or other excluded security) will not be considered a security issued by the partnership if at least 75% of the partnership's gross income is derived from sources that would qualify for the 75% REIT gross income test; and (c) any debt instrument issued by a partnership (other than straight debt or other excluded security) will not be considered a security issued by the partnership to the extent of the REIT's interest as a partner in the partnership.

For purposes of the 10% value test, straight debt means a written unconditional promise to pay on demand on a specified date a sum certain in money if (i) the debt is not convertible, directly or indirectly, into stock, (ii) the interest rate and interest payment dates are not contingent on profits, the borrower's discretion, or similar factors other than certain contingencies relating to the timing and amount of principal and interest payments, as described in the Internal Revenue Code, and (iii) in the case of an issuer that is a corporation or a partnership, securities that otherwise would be considered straight debt will not be so considered if we, and any of our controlled TRSs as defined in the Internal Revenue Code, hold any securities of the corporate or partnership issuer which: (a) are not straight debt or other excluded securities (prior to the application of this rule), and (b) have an aggregate value greater than 1% of the issuer's outstanding securities (including, for purposes of a partnership issuer, our interest as a partner in the partnership).

After initially meeting the asset tests at the close of any quarter, we and our Subsidiary REITs will not lose our qualification as a REIT for failure to satisfy the asset tests at the end of a later quarter solely by reason of changes in asset values. If we or a Subsidiary REIT fail to satisfy the asset tests because we acquire securities during a quarter, we or the Subsidiary REIT can cure this failure by disposing of sufficient non-qualifying assets within 30 days after the close of that quarter. If we or a Subsidiary REIT fail the 5% asset test or the 10% vote or value asset tests at the end of any quarter, and such failure is not cured within 30 days, we or the Subsidiary REIT may dispose of sufficient assets or otherwise come into compliance with such asset diversification requirements (generally within six months after the last day of the quarter in which our identification of the failure to satisfy these asset tests occurred) to cure such a violation, provided that the non-permitted assets do not exceed the lesser of 1% of our assets at the end of the relevant quarter or \$10,000,000. In addition, if we or a Subsidiary REIT fail any of the asset tests (including a failure of the 5% and 10% asset tests) in excess of the *de minimis* amount described above, as long as such failure was due to reasonable cause and not willful neglect, we or the Subsidiary REIT are permitted to avoid disqualification as a REIT, after the 30 day cure period, by taking steps including the disposition of sufficient assets to meet the asset test or otherwise coming into compliance with such asset diversification requirements (generally within six months after the last day of the quarter in which our or the Subsidiary REIT's identification of the failure to satisfy the REIT asset test occurred) and paying a tax equal to the greater of \$50,000 or the highest corporate income tax rate (currently 35%) of the net income generated by the nonqualifying assets during the period in which we or the Subsidiary REIT failed to satisfy the asset test.

We received a ruling from the IRS that loans made by the Operating Partnership to purchasers of factory built homes that are secured by the factory built home, and for which the Operating Partnership has the power to collect payment and foreclose upon default and are amounts collected for the use or forbearance of money and not for services rendered, will be treated as real estate assets for purposes of the REIT gross income and asset tests, and our allocable share of amounts received by the Operating Partnership as interest with respect to such loans will qualify as interest on obligations secured by mortgages on real property for purposes of the 75% gross income test, described above. We believe that the properties and mortgage-related securities (including loans secured by factory built homes) held by the Operating Partnership generally will be qualifying assets for purposes of the 75% asset test. However, other debt instruments secured by non-real estate assets, or unsecured debt securities, may not be qualifying assets for purposes of the 75% asset test.



## **Table of Contents**

Moreover, values of some assets, such as the value of our TRSs, may not be susceptible to a precise determination and are subject to change in the future. Furthermore, the proper classification of an instrument as debt or equity for U.S. federal income tax purposes may be uncertain in some circumstances, which could affect the application of the REIT asset tests. As an example, if an investment in equity securities of a REIT issuer were determined by the IRS to represent debt securities of such issuer, such securities would also not qualify as real estate assets. Accordingly, there can be no assurance that the IRS will not contend that interests in our subsidiaries or in the securities of other issuers (including REIT issuers) cause a violation of the REIT asset tests.

## **Annual Distribution Requirements**

In order 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:

90% of our REIT taxable income (computed without regard to our deduction for dividends paid and our net capital gains); and

90% of the net income (after tax), if any, from foreclosure property (as described below); minus  
(b) the sum of specified items of non-cash income that exceeds a percentage of our income.

These distributions must be paid in the taxable year to which they relate or in the following taxable year if such distributions are declared in October, November or December of the taxable year, are payable to stockholders of record on a specified date in any such month and are actually paid before the end of January of the following year. Such distributions are treated as both paid by us and received by each stockholder on December 31 of the year in which they are declared. In addition, at our election, a distribution for a taxable year may be declared before we timely file our tax return for the year, provided we pay such distribution with or before our first regular dividend payment after such declaration and during the 12-month period following the close of such taxable year. These distributions are taxable to our stockholders in the year in which paid, even though the distributions relate to our prior taxable year for purposes of the 90% distribution requirement.

For taxable years prior to January 1, 2015, in order for distributions to be counted towards our distribution requirement and to give rise to a tax deduction by us, they could not be preferential dividends. A dividend is not a preferential dividend if it is distributed pro rata among all outstanding shares of stock within a particular class and in accordance with the preferences among different classes of stock as set forth in the organizational documents. These preferential dividend limitations will no longer apply to us during any period that we are treated as a publicly offered REIT, although they will continue to apply to our Subsidiary REITs.

To the extent that we distribute at least 90%, but less than 100%, of our REIT taxable income, as adjusted, it will be subject to tax at ordinary corporate tax rates on the retained portion. In addition, we may elect to retain, rather than distribute, our net long-term capital gains and pay tax on such gains. In this case, we could elect to have our stockholders include their proportionate share of such undistributed long-term capital gains in income and receive a corresponding credit for their proportionate share of the tax paid by us. Our stockholders would then increase their adjusted basis in our stock by the difference between the designated amounts included in their long-term capital gains and the tax deemed paid with respect to their proportionate shares.

If we fail to distribute during each calendar year at least the sum of (a) 85% of our ordinary income for such year, (b) 95% of our capital gain net income for such year and (c) any undistributed taxable income from prior periods, we will be subject to a 4% excise tax on the excess of such required distribution over the sum of (x) the amounts actually distributed (taking into account excess distributions from prior periods) and (y) the amounts of income retained on which we have paid corporate income tax. We and our Subsidiary REITs intend to make distributions so that we and our Subsidiary REITs are not subject to the 4% excise tax.

- 44 -

---

**Table of Contents**

It is possible that we and our Subsidiary REITs, from time to time, may not have sufficient cash to meet the distribution requirements due to timing differences between (a) the actual receipt of cash, including the receipt of distributions from our subsidiaries and (b) the inclusion of items in income by us for U.S. federal income tax purposes. In the event that such timing differences occur, in order to meet the distribution requirements, it might be necessary to arrange for short-term, or possibly long-term, borrowings or to pay dividends in the form of taxable in-kind distributions of property, including taxable stock dividends. In the case of a taxable stock dividend, stockholders would be required to include the dividend as income and would be required to satisfy the tax liability associated with the distribution with cash from other sources including sales of our stock. Both a taxable stock distribution and sale of stock resulting from such distribution could adversely affect the price of our stock.

The IRS recently issued Revenue Procedure 2017-45, authorizing elective stock dividends to be made by public REITs. Pursuant to this revenue procedure, effective for distributions declared on or after August 11, 2017, the IRS will treat the distribution of stock pursuant to an elective stock dividend as a distribution of property under Section 301 of the Code (i.e., as a dividend to the extent of our earnings and profits), as long as at least 20% of the total dividend is available in cash and certain other requirements of outlined in the revenue procedure are met.

We and our Subsidiary REITs may be able to rectify a failure to meet the distribution requirements 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. In this case, we may be able to avoid losing our qualification as a REIT or being taxed on amounts distributed as deficiency dividends. However, we will be required to pay interest and a penalty based on the amount of any deduction taken for deficiency dividends.

**Tax on Built-In Gains**

If we acquire appreciated assets from a subchapter C corporation in a transaction in which the adjusted tax basis of the assets in our hands is determined by reference to the adjusted tax basis of the assets in the hands of the subchapter C corporation (a carry-over basis transaction), and if we subsequently dispose of any such assets during the 5 year period following the acquisition of the assets from the subchapter C corporation, we will be subject to tax at the highest corporate tax rates on any gain from such assets to the extent of the excess of the fair market value of the assets on the date that they were acquired by us over the basis of such assets on such date, which we refer to as built-in gains. However, the built-in gains tax will not apply if the subchapter C corporation elects to be subject to an immediate tax when the asset is acquired by us. Gain from the sale of property which we acquired in an exchange under Section 1031 (a like kind exchange) or 1033 (an involuntary conversion) of the Code is generally excluded from the application of this built-in gains tax.

**Prohibited Transactions**

Net income we derive from a prohibited transaction is subject to a 100% tax. The term prohibited transaction generally includes a sale or other disposition of property (other than foreclosure property) that is held as inventory or primarily for sale to customers, in the ordinary course of a trade or business by a REIT, by a lower-tier partnership in which the REIT holds an equity interest or by a borrower that has issued a shared appreciation mortgage or similar debt instrument in the REIT. We intend to hold our properties for investment with a view to long-term appreciation, to engage in the business of owning and operating properties and to make sales of properties that are consistent with our investment objectives, so that no asset owned by us or our pass-through subsidiaries will be held as inventory or primarily for sale to customers, and that a sale of any assets owned by us directly or through a pass-through subsidiary will not be treated as in the ordinary course of business. However, whether property is held as inventory or primarily for sale to customers in the ordinary course of a trade or business depends on the particular facts and circumstances. No assurance can be given that any particular property in which we hold a direct or indirect interest will not be treated

as inventory or property held primarily for sale to customers or that certain safe-harbor provisions of the Internal Revenue Code that prevent such treatment will apply. The 100% tax will not apply to gains from the sale of property by a TRS or other taxable corporation, although such income will be subject to tax in the hands of the corporation at regular corporate income tax rates.

---

**Table of Contents**

The Internal Revenue Code provides a safe harbor that, if met, allows us to avoid being treated as engaged in a prohibited transaction with respect to the sale of a property. In order to meet the safe harbor, among other things, (i) we must have held the property for at least two years (and, in the case of property which consists of land or improvements not acquired through foreclosure, we must have held the property for two years for the production of rental income), (ii) we capitalized expenditures on the property in the two years preceding the sale that are less than 30% of the net selling price of the property, and (iii) (a) we have seven or fewer sales of property (excluding certain property obtained through foreclosure or sales to which Section 1033 of the Internal Revenue Code applies (involuntary conversions)) for the year of sale, (b) the aggregate adjusted bases of properties (excluding certain property obtained through foreclosure or sales to which Section 1033 of the Internal Revenue Code applies (involuntary conversions)) sold by us during the taxable year is 10% or less of the aggregate adjusted bases of all of our assets as of the beginning of the taxable year, (c) the aggregate fair market value of properties (excluding certain property obtained through foreclosure or sales to which Section 1033 of the Internal Revenue Code applies (involuntary conversions)) sold by us during the taxable year is 10% or less of the aggregate fair market value of all of our assets as of the beginning of the taxable year, or (d) as an alternative to the tests described in clauses (b) and (c), the applicable percentage limit (of aggregate adjusted bases or fair market value, as applicable) may be increased to 20%, provided that the average percentage (of aggregate adjusted bases or fair market value, as applicable) for the current and prior two taxable years does not exceed 10%. For purposes of applying the safe harbor, the sale of more than one property to one buyer as part of one transaction constitutes one sale.

**Foreclosure Property**

Foreclosure property is real property (including interests in 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 the 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 the property or a mortgage loan held by the REIT and secured by the property, (ii) for which the related loan or lease was made, entered into or 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. REITs generally are subject to tax at the maximum corporate rate (currently 35%) on any net income from foreclosure property, including any gain from the disposition of the foreclosure property, other than income that would otherwise be qualifying income for purposes of the 75% gross income test. Any gain from the sale of property for which a foreclosure property election has been made will not be subject to the 100% 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.

**Failure to Qualify**

In the event that we or a Subsidiary REIT violate a provision of the Internal Revenue Code that would result in our or a Subsidiary REIT's failure to qualify as a REIT, specified relief provisions will be available to us to avoid such disqualification if (1) the violation is due to reasonable cause and not due to willful neglect, (2) we pay a penalty of \$50,000 for each failure to satisfy a REIT qualification requirement and (3) the violation does not include a violation under the gross income or asset tests described above (for which other specified relief provisions are available). This cure provision reduces the instances that could lead to our or a Subsidiary REIT's disqualification as a REIT for violations due to reasonable cause and not due to willful neglect. If we or a Subsidiary REIT fail to qualify for taxation as a REIT in any taxable year and none of the relief provisions of the Internal Revenue Code apply, we or the Subsidiary REIT will be subject to tax, including any applicable alternative minimum tax, on our taxable income at regular corporate rates. Distributions to our stockholders in any year in which we are not a REIT will not be deductible by us, nor will they be required to be made. In this situation, to the extent of our current and accumulated earnings and profits, and, subject to limitations of the Internal Revenue Code, distributions to our non-corporate U.S.

stockholders (as defined below) will generally be taxable at a maximum rate of 20%, and dividends in the hands of our corporate U.S. stockholders may be eligible for the dividends received deduction. Unless we or the Subsidiary REIT are entitled to relief under the specific statutory provisions, we or the Subsidiary REIT will also be disqualified from re-electing to be taxed as a REIT for the four taxable years following a year during which qualification was lost. It is not possible to state whether, in all circumstances, we will be entitled to statutory relief.

**Taxation of Taxable U.S. Stockholders**

This section summarizes the taxation of certain U.S. stockholders that are not tax-exempt organizations. For these purposes, a U.S. stockholder is a beneficial owner of our stock that for U.S. federal income tax purposes is:

a citizen or resident of the United States;

**Table of Contents**

a corporation (including an entity treated as a corporation for U.S. federal income tax purposes) created or organized in or under the laws of the United States, any state thereof or the District of Columbia;

an estate whose income is subject to U.S. federal income taxation regardless of its source; or

any trust if (1) a U.S. court is able to exercise primary supervision over the administration of such trust and one or more U.S. persons have the authority to control all substantial decisions of the trust or (2) it has a valid election in place to be treated as a U.S. person.

If an entity or arrangement treated as a partnership for U.S. federal income tax purposes holds our stock, the U.S. federal income tax treatment of a partner generally will depend upon the status of the partner and the activities of the partnership. A partner of a partnership holding our stock should consult its own tax advisor regarding the U.S. federal income tax consequences to the partner of the acquisition, ownership and disposition of our stock by the partnership.

***Distributions.*** Provided that we qualify as a REIT, distributions made to our taxable U.S. stockholders out of our current or accumulated earnings and profits, and not designated as capital gain dividends, will generally be taken into account by them as ordinary dividend income and will not be eligible for the dividends received deduction for corporations. In determining the extent to which a distribution with respect to our stock constitutes a dividend for U.S. federal income tax purposes, our earnings and profits will be allocated first to distributions with respect to our preferred stock, if any, and then to our stock. Dividends received from REITs are generally not eligible to be taxed at the preferential qualified dividend income rates applicable to non-corporate U.S. stockholders who receive dividends from taxable subchapter C corporations.

In addition, distributions from us that are designated as capital gain dividends will be taxed to U.S. stockholders as long-term capital gains, to the extent that they do not exceed the actual net capital gain of our company for the taxable year, without regard to the period for which the U.S. stockholder has held its stock. To the extent that we elect under the applicable provisions of the Internal Revenue Code to retain our net capital gains, U.S. stockholders will be treated as having received, for U.S. federal income tax purposes, our undistributed capital gains as well as a corresponding credit for taxes paid by us on such retained capital gains. U.S. stockholders will increase their adjusted tax basis in our stock by the difference between their allocable share of such retained capital gain and their share of the tax paid by us. Corporate U.S. stockholders may be required to treat up to 20% of some capital gain dividends as ordinary income. Long-term capital gains are generally taxable at maximum federal rates of 20% in the case of non-corporate U.S. stockholders, and 35% for corporations. 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 non-corporate U.S. stockholders, to the extent of previously claimed depreciation deductions.

Distributions in excess of our current and accumulated earnings and profits will not be taxable to a U.S. stockholder to the extent that they do not exceed the adjusted tax basis of the U.S. stockholder's shares in respect of which the distributions were made, but rather will reduce the adjusted tax basis of these shares. To the extent that such distributions exceed the adjusted tax basis of a U.S. stockholder's shares, they will be included in income as long-term capital gain, or short-term capital gain if the shares have been held for one year or less. In addition, any dividend declared by us in October, November or December of any year and payable to a U.S. stockholder of record on a specified date in any such month will be treated as both paid by us and received by the U.S. stockholder on December 31 of such year, provided that the dividend is actually paid by us before the end of January of the following calendar year.

With respect to U.S. stockholders who are taxed at the rates applicable to individuals, we may elect to designate a portion of our distributions paid to such U.S. stockholders as qualified dividend income. A portion of a distribution that is properly designated as qualified dividend income is taxable to non-corporate U.S. stockholders as capital gain, provided that the U.S. stockholder has held the common stock with respect to which the distribution is made for more than 60 days during the 121-day period beginning on the date that is 60 days before the date on which such common stock became ex-dividend with respect to the relevant distribution. The maximum amount of our distributions eligible to be designated as qualified dividend income for a taxable year is equal to the sum of:

- 47 -



**Table of Contents**

- (a) the qualified dividend income received by us during such taxable year from subchapter C corporations (including dividends from TRSs which are subject to U.S. federal income tax, provided that we designate such dividends as qualified dividend income);
  - (b) the excess of any undistributed REIT taxable income recognized during the immediately preceding year over the U.S. federal income tax paid by us with respect to such undistributed REIT taxable income; and
  - (c) the excess of any income recognized during the immediately preceding year attributable to the sale of a built-in-gain asset that was acquired in a carry-over basis transaction from a subchapter C corporation over the U.S. federal income tax paid by us with respect to such built-in gain,
- provided that, in no case may the amount we designate as qualified dividend income exceed the amount we distribute to our stockholders as dividends with respect to the taxable year.

Generally, dividends that we receive will be treated as qualified dividend income for purposes of (a) above if the dividends are received from a domestic subchapter C corporation, or a qualifying foreign corporation and specified holding period requirements and other requirements are met.

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 must be made in order to comply with the REIT distribution requirements. See *Taxation of the Company* and *Annual Distribution Requirements*. Such losses, however, are not passed through to U.S. stockholders and do not offset income of U.S. stockholders from other sources, nor do they affect the character of any distributions that are actually made by us, which are generally subject to tax in the hands of U.S. stockholders to the extent that we have current or accumulated earnings and profits.

*Dispositions of Our Stock.* In general, a U.S. stockholder will realize gain or loss upon the sale, redemption or other taxable disposition of our stock in an amount equal to the difference between the sum of the fair market value of any property and the amount of cash received in such disposition and the U.S. stockholder's adjusted tax basis in the stock at the time of the disposition. In general, a U.S. stockholder's adjusted tax basis will equal the U.S. stockholder's acquisition cost, increased by the excess of net capital gains deemed distributed to the U.S. stockholder (discussed above) less tax deemed paid on it and reduced by returns of capital. In general, capital gains recognized by individuals and other non-corporate U.S. stockholders upon the sale or disposition of shares of our stock will be subject to a maximum U.S. federal income tax rate of 20%, if our stock is held for more than 12 months, and will be taxed at ordinary income rates (of up to 39.6%) if our stock is held for 12 months or less. Gains recognized by U.S. stockholders that are corporations are subject to U.S. federal income tax at a maximum rate of 35%, whether or not classified as long-term capital gains. The IRS has the authority to prescribe, but has not yet prescribed, regulations that would apply a capital gain tax rate of 25% (which is generally higher than the long-term capital gain tax rates for non-corporate holders) to a portion of capital gain realized by a non-corporate holder on the sale of REIT stock or depositary shares that would correspond to the REIT's unrecaptured Section 1250 gain. Holders are advised to consult with their own tax advisors with respect to their capital gain tax liability. Capital losses recognized by a U.S. stockholder upon the disposition of our stock held for more than one year at the time of disposition will be considered long-term capital losses, and are generally available only to offset capital gain income of the U.S. stockholder but not ordinary income (except in the case of individuals, who may offset up to \$3,000 of ordinary income each year). In addition, any loss upon a sale or exchange of shares of our stock by a U.S. stockholder who has held the shares for six months or less, after applying holding period rules, will be treated as a long-term capital loss to the extent of distributions received from us that were required to be treated by the U.S. stockholder as long-term capital gain.

If a U.S. stockholder recognizes a loss upon a subsequent disposition of our common stock in an amount that exceeds a prescribed threshold, it is possible that the provisions of certain Treasury Regulations involving reportable transactions could apply, with a resulting requirement to separately disclose the loss generating transactions to the IRS. Although these regulations are directed towards tax shelters, they are written quite broadly, and apply to transactions that would not typically be considered tax shelters. Significant penalties apply for failure to comply with these requirements. You should consult your tax advisors 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 transactions involving us (including our advisors) might be subject to disclosure or other requirements pursuant to these regulations.

## **Table of Contents**

*Passive Activity Losses and Investment Interest Limitations.* Distributions made by us and gain arising from the sale or exchange by a U.S. stockholder of our stock will not be treated as passive activity income. As a result, U.S. stockholders will not be able to apply any passive losses against income or gain relating to our stock. Distributions made by us, to the extent they do not constitute a return of capital, generally will be treated as investment income for purposes of computing the investment interest limitation. A U.S. stockholder that elects to treat capital gain dividends, capital gains from the disposition of stock or qualified dividend income as investment income for purposes of the investment interest limitation will be taxed at ordinary income rates on such amounts.

*Medicare Contribution Tax.* Taxable U.S. stockholders will generally be required to pay a 3.8% Medicare tax on their net investment income (including dividends on and gains from the sale or other disposition of our company's stock), or in the case of estates and trusts on their net investment income that is not distributed, in each case to the extent that their total adjusted income exceeds applicable thresholds. Prospective taxable U.S. stockholders should consult their own tax advisors regarding the application and effect of this tax, if any, on an investment in our company's stock.

## **Taxation of Tax-Exempt U.S. Stockholders**

U.S. tax-exempt entities, including qualified employee pension and profit sharing trusts and individual retirement accounts, generally are exempt from U.S. federal income taxation. However, they are subject to taxation on their unrelated business taxable income, which we refer to in this prospectus as UBTI. While many investments in real estate may generate UBTI, the IRS has ruled that dividend distributions from a REIT to a tax-exempt entity do not constitute UBTI. Based on that ruling, and provided that (1) a tax-exempt U.S. stockholder has not held our stock as debt financed property within the meaning of the Internal Revenue Code (*i.e.*, where the acquisition or holding of the property is financed through a borrowing by the tax-exempt stockholder) and (2) our stock is not otherwise used in an unrelated trade or business, distributions from us and income from the sale of our stock generally should not give rise to UBTI to a tax-exempt U.S. stockholder.

Tax-exempt U.S. stockholders that are social clubs, voluntary employee benefit associations, supplemental unemployment benefit trusts, and qualified group legal services plans exempt from U.S. federal income taxation under Sections 501(c)(7), (c)(9), (c)(17) and (c)(20) of the Internal Revenue Code, respectively, are subject to different UBTI rules, which generally will require them to characterize distributions from us as UBTI.

In certain circumstances, a pension trust (1) that is described in Section 401(a) of the Internal Revenue Code, (2) is tax exempt under Section 501(a) of the Internal Revenue Code, and (3) that owns more than 10% of our stock could be required to treat a percentage of the dividends from us as UBTI if we are a pension-held REIT. We will not be a pension-held REIT unless (1) either (A) one pension trust owns more than 25% of the value of our stock, or (B) a group of pension trusts, each individually holding more than 10% of the value of our stock, collectively owns more than 50% of such stock; and (2) we would not have qualified as a REIT but for the fact that Section 856(h)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code provides that stock owned by such trusts shall be treated, for purposes of the requirement that not more than 50% of the value of the outstanding stock of a REIT is owned, directly or indirectly, by five or fewer individuals (as defined in the Internal Revenue Code to include certain entities) by the beneficiaries of such trusts. Certain restrictions on ownership and transfer of our stock should generally prevent a tax-exempt entity from owning more than 10% of the value of our stock, or us from becoming a pension-held REIT.

Tax-exempt U.S. stockholders are urged to consult their own tax advisors regarding the U.S. federal, state, local and foreign tax consequences of owning our stock.

## **Taxation of Non-U.S. Stockholders**

The following is a summary of certain U.S. federal income tax consequences of the acquisition, ownership and disposition of our stock applicable to non-U.S. stockholders of our stock. For purposes of this summary, a non-U.S. stockholder is a beneficial owner of our stock that is not a U.S. stockholder. The discussion is based on current law and is for general information only. It addresses only selective and not all aspects of U.S. federal income taxation.

---

**Table of Contents**

**Ordinary Dividends.** The portion of dividends received by non-U.S. stockholders payable out of our earnings and profits that are not attributable to gains from sales or exchanges of U.S. real property interests, not attributable to our net capital gains, and which are not effectively connected with a U.S. trade or business of the non-U.S. stockholder will generally be subject to U.S. federal withholding tax at the rate of 30%, unless reduced or eliminated by an applicable income tax treaty. Under some treaties, however, lower rates generally applicable to dividends do not apply to dividends from REITs.

In general, non-U.S. stockholders will not be considered to be engaged in a U.S. trade or business solely as a result of their ownership of our stock. In cases where the dividend income from a non-U.S. stockholder's investment in our stock is, or is treated as, effectively connected with the non-U.S. stockholder's conduct of a U.S. trade or business, the non-U.S. stockholder generally will be subject to U.S. federal income tax at graduated rates, in the same manner as U.S. stockholders are taxed with respect to such dividends, and may also be subject to the 30% branch profits tax on the income after the application of the income tax in the case of a non-U.S. stockholder that is a corporation.

**Non-Dividend Distributions.** Unless (A) our stock constitutes a U.S. real property interest or USRPI, or (B) either (1) if the non-U.S. stockholder's investment in our stock is effectively connected with a U.S. trade or business conducted by such non-U.S. stockholder (in which case the non-U.S. stockholder will be subject to the same treatment as U.S. stockholders with respect to such gain) or (2) if the non-U.S. stockholder 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 (in which case the non-U.S. stockholder will be subject to a 30% tax on the individual's net capital gain for the year), distributions by us which are not dividends out of our earnings and profits will not be subject to U.S. federal income tax. If it cannot be determined at the time at which a distribution is made whether or not the distribution will exceed current and accumulated earnings and profits, the distribution will be subject to withholding at the rate applicable to dividends. However, the non-U.S. stockholder may seek a refund from the IRS of any amounts withheld if it is subsequently determined that the distribution was, in fact, in excess of our current and accumulated earnings and profits.

If our company's stock constitutes a USRPI, as described below, distributions by us in excess of the sum of our earnings and profits plus the non-U.S. stockholder's adjusted tax basis in our stock will be taxed under the Foreign Investment in Real Property Tax Act of 1980, or FIRPTA, at the rate of tax, including any applicable capital gains rates, that would apply to a U.S. stockholder of the same type (e.g., an individual or a corporation, as the case may be), and the collection of the tax will be enforced by a refundable withholding at a rate of 15% of the amount by which the distribution exceeds the stockholder's share of our earnings and profits. As discussed below, we expect that our stock will not be treated as a USRPI in the hands of a non-U.S. stockholder who holds less than 10% of our common stock. Non-U.S. stockholders that are treated as qualified foreign pension funds and qualified shareholders (except with respect to certain applicable investors of a qualified shareholder, as discussed below) are exempt from U.S. federal income and applicable withholding taxes under FIRPTA on such distributions by us.

Because it will not generally be possible for us to determine the extent to which a distribution will be from our current or accumulated earnings and profits at the time the distribution is made, we intend to withhold and remit to the IRS 30% of distributions to non-U.S. stockholders (other than distributions that are deemed to be attributable to USRPI capital gains, as described in greater detail below) unless (i) a lower treaty rate applies and the non-U.S. stockholder files an IRS Form W-8BEN or IRS Form W-8BEN-E, as applicable, evidencing eligibility for that reduced treaty rate with us; or (ii) the non-U.S. stockholder files an IRS Form W-8ECI with us claiming that the distribution is income effectively connected with the non-U.S. stockholder's trade or business. However, if we determine that any of our stock held by a non-U.S. stockholder is likely to be treated as a USRPI, we intend to withhold and remit to the IRS at least 15% of distributions on such stock even if a lower rate would apply under the preceding discussion.

**Capital Gain Dividends.** Under FIRPTA, a distribution made by us to a non-U.S. stockholder, to the extent attributable to gains from dispositions of USRPIs held by us directly or through pass-through subsidiaries ( **USRPI capital gains** ) will be considered effectively connected with a U.S. trade or business of the non-U.S. stockholder and will be subject to U.S. federal income tax at the rates applicable to U.S. stockholders, without regard to whether the distribution is designated as a capital gain dividend. In addition, we will be required to withhold tax equal to 35% of the amount of any distribution to the extent it is attributable to USRPI capital gains. Distributions subject to FIRPTA may also be subject to a 30% branch profits tax in the hands of a non-U.S. holder that is a corporation. However, the 35% withholding tax will not apply to any capital gain dividend with respect to any class of our stock which is regularly traded on an established securities market located in the United States if the non-U.S. stockholder did not own more than 5% of such class of stock at any time during the taxable year. Instead, any capital gain dividend will be treated as a distribution subject to the rules discussed above under Taxation of Non-U.S. Stockholders Ordinary Dividends. Also, the branch profits tax will not apply to such a distribution. In addition, non-U.S. stockholders that are treated as qualified foreign pension funds and qualified shareholders (except with respect to certain applicable investors of a qualified shareholder, as discussed below) are exempt from income and withholding taxes applicable under FIRPTA on distributions from us to the extent attributable to USRPI capital gains.

---

**Table of Contents**

A distribution is not attributable to USRPI capital gain if we held the underlying asset solely as a creditor, although the holding of a shared appreciation mortgage loan would not be solely as a creditor. Capital gain dividends received by a non-U.S. stockholder from a REIT that are not attributable to USRPI capital gains are generally not subject to U.S. federal income or withholding tax, unless either (1) the non-U.S. stockholder's investment in our stock is effectively connected with a U.S. trade or business conducted by such non-U.S. stockholder (in which case the non-U.S. stockholder will be subject to the same treatment as U.S. stockholders with respect to such gain) or (2) the non-U.S. stockholder 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 (in which case the non-U.S. stockholder will be subject to a 30% tax on the individual's net capital gain for the year).

***Retention of Net Capital Gains.*** Although the law is not clear on the matter, it appears that amounts designated by us as retained capital gains in respect of the stock held by U.S. stockholders generally should be treated with respect to non-U.S. stockholders in the same manner as actual distributions by us of capital gain dividends. Under that approach, a non-U.S. stockholder would be able to offset as a credit against its U.S. federal income tax liability resulting therefrom, an amount equal to its proportionate share of the tax paid by us on such undistributed capital gains, and to receive from the IRS a refund to the extent its proportionate share of such tax paid by us were to exceed its actual U.S. federal income tax liability, and the non-U.S. stockholder timely files an appropriate claim for refunds.

***Dispositions of Our Stock.*** Unless our stock constitutes a USRPI, a sale of the stock by a non-U.S. stockholder generally will not be subject to U.S. federal income taxation under FIRPTA. Our stock will not be generally treated as 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, interests in real property solely in a capacity as a creditor. However, we expect that more than 50% of our assets will consist of interests in real property located in the United States.

Notwithstanding the foregoing, our 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 outstanding stock is held directly or indirectly by non-U.S. stockholders. For this purpose, a REIT may generally presume that any class of the REIT's stock that is regularly traded, as defined by the applicable Treasury regulations, on an established securities market is held by U.S. persons, except in the case of holders of 5% or more of such class of stock, and except to the extent that the REIT has actual knowledge that such stock is held by non-U.S. persons. In addition, certain look-through and presumption rules apply for these purposes to any stock of a REIT that is held by a RIC or another REIT. We believe we are, and we expect to continue to be, a domestically controlled REIT and, therefore, the sale of our stock should not be subject to taxation under FIRPTA. However, because our stock is publicly traded, we cannot assure our investors that we are or will remain a domestically controlled REIT. Even if we do not qualify as a domestically controlled REIT, a non-U.S. stockholder's sale of our stock nonetheless will generally not be subject to tax under FIRPTA as a sale of a USRPI, provided that (a) our stock owned is of a class that is regularly traded, as defined by applicable Treasury Department regulations, on an established securities market, and (b) the selling non-U.S. stockholder owned, actually or constructively, 10% or less of our outstanding stock of that class at all times during a specified testing period. In addition, even if we do not qualify as a domestically controlled REIT and our common stock is not regularly traded on an established securities market, non-U.S. stockholders that are treated as qualified foreign pension funds and qualified shareholders (except with respect to certain applicable investors of a qualified shareholder, ) are exempt from tax under FIRPTA on the sale of our common stock.

---

**Table of Contents**

If gain on the sale of our stock were subject to taxation under FIRPTA, the non-U.S. stockholder would be subject to the same treatment as a U.S. stockholder with respect to such gain, subject to applicable alternative minimum tax (and a special alternative minimum tax in the case of non-resident alien individuals), and the purchaser of the stock could be required to withhold 10% of the purchase price and remit such amount to the IRS.

Gain from the sale of our stock that would not otherwise be subject to FIRPTA will nonetheless be taxable in the United States to a non-U.S. stockholder in two cases: (a) if the non-U.S. stockholder's investment in our stock is effectively connected with a U.S. trade or business conducted by such non-U.S. stockholder, the non-U.S. stockholder will be subject to the same treatment as a U.S. stockholder with respect to such gain, or (b) if the non-U.S. stockholder 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.

***Qualified Foreign Pension Funds.*** Any distribution to a qualified foreign pension fund (or an entity all of the interests of which are held by a qualified foreign pension fund) who holds REIT stock directly or indirectly (through one or more partnerships) will not be subject to U.S. tax as income effectively connected with a U.S. trade or business and thus will not be subject to special withholding rules under FIRPTA. In addition, a sale of our shares by a qualified foreign pension fund that holds such shares directly or indirectly (through one or more partnerships) will not be subject to U.S. federal income taxation under FIRPTA.

A qualified foreign pension fund is any trust, corporation, or other organization or arrangement (i) which is created or organized under the law of a country other than the United States, (ii) which is established to provide retirement or pension benefits to participants or beneficiaries that are current or former employees (or persons designated by such employees) of one or more employers in consideration for services rendered, (iii) which does not have a single participant or beneficiary with a right to more than 5% of its assets or income, (iv) which is subject to government regulation and provides annual information reporting about its beneficiaries to the relevant tax authorities in the country in which it is established or operates, and (v) with respect to which, under the laws of the country in which it is established or operates, (a) contributions to such organization or arrangement that would otherwise be subject to tax under such laws are deductible or excluded from the gross income of such entity or taxed at a reduced rate, or (b) taxation of any investment income of such organization or arrangement is deferred or such income is taxed at a reduced rate.

***Qualified Shareholders.*** Stock of a REIT held (directly or through partnerships) by a qualified shareholder, as defined below, will not constitute a USRPI, and capital gain dividends from such a REIT will not be treated as gain from sale of a USRPI, unless a person (other than a qualified shareholder) that holds an interest (other than an interest solely as a creditor) in such qualified shareholder owns, taking into account applicable constructive ownership rules, more than 10% of the stock of the REIT. However, certain applicable investors of a qualified shareholder (i.e., non-U.S. persons who hold interests in the qualified shareholder (other than interests solely as a creditor), and hold more than 10% of our common stock (whether or not by reason of the investor's ownership in the qualified shareholder)) may be subject to FIRPTA withholding.

A qualified shareholder is a non-U.S. person that (i) either (A) is eligible for the benefits of a comprehensive income tax treaty with the United States which includes an exchange of information program and whose principal class of interests is listed and regularly traded on one or more recognized stock exchanges (as defined in such comprehensive income tax treaty), or (B) is a foreign partnership that is created or organized under foreign law as a limited partnership in a jurisdiction that has an agreement for the exchange of information with respect to taxes with the United States and has a class of limited partnership units representing greater than 50% of the value of all the partnership units that is regularly traded on the NYSE or NASDAQ markets, (ii) is a qualified collective investment



vehicle (within the meaning of Section 897(k)(3)(B) of the Internal Revenue Code), and (iii) maintains records on the identity of each person who, at any time during the non-U.S. person's taxable year, is the direct owner of 5% or more of the class of interests or units (as applicable) described in (i), above.

---

**Table of Contents****Foreign Account Tax Compliance Act.**

Federal legislation may impose withholding taxes on certain types of payments made to foreign financial institutions and certain other non-U.S. entities. Under this legislation, the failure to comply with additional certification, information reporting and other specified requirements could result in withholding tax being imposed on payments of dividends and sales proceeds to U.S. shareholders who own shares of our common stock through foreign accounts or foreign intermediaries and certain non-U.S. shareholders. Under Treasury Regulations, a 30% withholding tax is imposed on payments made with respect to dividends on, and after December 31, 2018, with respect to gross proceeds from the sale or other disposition of, our common stock paid to a foreign financial institution or to a foreign entity other than a financial institution, unless (i) the foreign financial institution undertakes certain diligence and reporting obligations or (ii) the foreign entity that is not a financial institution either certifies it does not have any substantial United States owners or furnishes identifying information regarding each substantial United States owner. If the payee is a foreign financial institution (that is not otherwise exempt), it must either enter into an agreement with the U.S. Treasury Department requiring, among other things, that it undertake to identify accounts held by certain United States persons or United States-owned foreign entities, annually report certain information about such accounts, and withhold 30% on payments to account holders whose actions prevent it from complying with these reporting and other requirements, or in the case of a foreign financial institution that is resident in a jurisdiction that has entered into an intergovernmental agreement to implement this legislation comply with the revised diligence and reporting obligations of such intergovernmental agreement. Prospective investors should consult their tax advisors regarding this legislation.

**Backup Withholding and Information Reporting**

We will report to our U.S. stockholders and the IRS the amount of dividends paid during each calendar year and the amount of any tax withheld. Under the backup withholding rules, a U.S. stockholder may be subject to backup withholding with respect to dividends paid unless the holder is a corporation or comes within other exempt categories and, when required, demonstrates this fact or provides a taxpayer identification number or social security number, certifies as to no loss of exemption from backup withholding and otherwise complies with applicable requirements of the backup withholding rules. A U.S. stockholder that does not provide his or her correct taxpayer identification number or social security number may also be subject to penalties imposed by the IRS. Backup withholding is not an additional tax. In addition, we may be required to withhold a portion of capital gain distribution to any U.S. stockholder who fails to certify their non-foreign status.

We must report annually to the IRS and to each non-U.S. stockholder the amount of dividends paid to such holder and the tax withheld with respect to such dividends, regardless of whether withholding was required. Copies of the information returns reporting such dividends and withholding may also be made available to the tax authorities in the country in which the non-U.S. stockholder resides under the provisions of an applicable income tax treaty. A non-U.S. stockholder may be subject to backup withholding unless applicable certification requirements are met.

Payment of the proceeds of a sale of our stock within the United States is subject to both backup withholding and information reporting unless the beneficial owner certifies under penalties of perjury that it is a non-U.S. stockholder (and the payor does not have actual knowledge or reason to know that the beneficial owner is a United States person) or the holder otherwise establishes an exemption. Payment of the proceeds of a sale of our stock conducted through certain United States related financial intermediaries is subject to information reporting (but not backup withholding) unless the financial intermediary has documentary evidence in its records that the beneficial owner is a non-U.S. stockholder and specified conditions are met or an exemption is otherwise established.

Any amounts withheld under the backup withholding rules may be allowed as a refund or a credit against such holder's U.S. federal income tax liability provided the required information is furnished to the IRS.

**State, Local and Foreign Taxes**

Our company and our subsidiaries and stockholders may be subject to state, local or foreign taxation in various jurisdictions, including those in which it or they transact business, own property or reside. We own interests in properties located in a number of jurisdictions, and may be required to file tax returns in certain of those jurisdictions. The state, local or foreign tax treatment of our company and our stockholders may not conform to the U.S. federal income tax treatment discussed above. Any foreign taxes incurred by us would not pass through to stockholders as a credit against their U.S. federal income tax liability. Prospective stockholders should consult their own tax advisors regarding the application and effect of state, local and foreign income and other tax laws on an investment in our company's stock.

**Table of Contents**

**Legislative or Other Actions Affecting REITs**

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 the U.S. Treasury Department. In particular, the current administration has indicated that it intends to promote significant changes to the U.S. federal tax laws, and the administration and Congress have drafted initial proposals for comprehensive tax reform. We cannot predict if or when any new U.S. federal income tax law, regulation or administrative interpretation, or any amendment to any existing U.S. federal income tax law, regulation or administrative interpretation, will be adopted, promulgated or become effective or whether any such law, regulation or interpretation may take effect retroactively. Changes to the U.S. federal income tax laws and interpretations of U.S. federal tax laws could adversely affect an investment in our stock.

**Table of Contents**

**PLAN OF DISTRIBUTION**

We may sell the securities to one or more underwriters for public offering and sale by them or may sell the securities to investors directly or through agents or through a combination of any of these methods of sale. Any underwriter or agent involved in the offer and sale of the securities, including but not limited to at-the-market equity offerings, will be named in the applicable prospectus supplement. Underwriters or agents could make sales in privately negotiated transactions and/or any other method permitted by law, including sales deemed to be an at the market offering as defined in Rule 415 promulgated under the Securities Act, which includes sales made directly on the NYSE, the existing trading market for our common stock, or sales made to or through a market maker other than on an exchange.

We may enter into derivative transactions with third parties, or sell securities not covered by this prospectus to third parties in privately negotiated transactions. If the applicable prospectus supplement indicates, in connection with those derivatives, the third parties may sell securities covered by this prospectus and the applicable prospectus supplement, including in short sale transactions. If so, the third parties may use securities pledged by us or borrowed from us or others to settle those sales or to close out any related open borrowings of stock, and may use securities received from us in settlement of those derivatives to close out any related open borrowings of stock. The third parties in such sale transactions will be underwriters and, if not identified in this prospectus, will be identified in the applicable prospectus supplement (or a post-effective amendment).

Our shares of common stock may also be sold in one or more of the following transactions: (i) block transactions (which may involve crosses) in which a broker-dealer may sell all or a portion of such shares as agent, but may position and resell all or a portion of the block as principal to facilitate the transaction; (ii) purchases by any such broker-dealer as principal, and resale by such broker-dealer for its own account pursuant to a prospectus supplement; (iii) a special offering, an exchange distribution or a secondary distribution in accordance with applicable New York Stock Exchange or other stock exchange, quotation system or over-the-counter market rules; (iv) ordinary brokerage transactions and transactions in which any such broker-dealer solicits purchasers; (v) sales at the market to or through a market maker or into an existing trading market, on an exchange or otherwise, for such shares; and (vi) sales in other ways not involving market makers or established trading markets, including direct sales to purchasers.

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

If indicated in the applicable prospectus supplement, we may authorize underwriters, dealers or other persons acting as our agents to solicit offers by certain institutions or other suitable persons to purchase the securities from us at the public offering price set forth in the prospectus supplement pursuant to delayed delivery contracts providing for payment and delivery on the date or dates stated in the prospectus supplement. We may make delayed delivery with various institutions, including commercial and savings banks, insurance companies, pension funds, investment companies and educational and charitable institutions. Delayed delivery contracts will be subject to the condition that the purchase of the securities covered by the delayed delivery contracts will not at the time of delivery be prohibited under the laws of any jurisdiction in the United States to which the purchaser is subject. The underwriters and agents will not have any responsibility with respect to the validity or performance of these contracts.

Any underwriting compensation paid by us to underwriters or agents in connection with the offering of securities, and any discounts, concessions or commissions allowed by underwriters to participating dealers, will be set forth in the applicable prospectus supplement. Underwriters, 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, under the Securities Act. Underwriters, dealers and agents may be entitled, under agreements entered into with us and our Operating Partnership, to indemnification against and contribution toward civil liabilities, including liabilities under the Securities Act.

**Table of Contents**

Unless we specify otherwise in the applicable prospectus supplement, any securities issued hereunder (other than common stock) will be new issues of securities with no established trading market. Any underwriters or agents to or through whom such securities are sold by us or the Operating Partnership for public offering and sale may make a market in such securities, but such underwriters or agents will not be obligated to do so and may discontinue any market making at any time without notice. We cannot assure you as to the liquidity of the trading market for any such securities.

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. Such transactions may include stabilization transactions effected in accordance with Rule 104 of Regulation M promulgated by the SEC pursuant to which such persons may bid for or purchase securities for the purpose of stabilizing their market price. 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 such case, the underwriters could cover all or a portion of such short position by either purchasing securities in the open market following completion of the offering of such securities or by exercising any overallotment 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 with respect to 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 such 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 without notice.

Underwriters, dealers and agents may be entitled, under agreements entered into with us or the Operating Partnership, to indemnification against and contribution toward certain civil liabilities, including liabilities under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended. Unless otherwise set forth in an accompanying prospectus supplement, the obligations of any underwriters to purchase any of the securities will be subject to certain conditions precedent, and the underwriters will be obligated to purchase all of such securities, if any are purchased.

The underwriters, dealers, agents and their affiliates may be customers of, engage in transactions with and perform services for us and the Operating Partnership and its subsidiaries in the ordinary course of business.

If indicated in the prospectus supplement, we may authorize underwriters or other agents to solicit offers by institutions to purchase securities from us pursuant to contracts providing for payment and delivery on a future date. Institutions with which we may make these delayed delivery contracts include commercial and savings banks, insurance companies, pension funds, investment companies, educational and charitable institutions and others. The obligations of any purchaser under any such delayed delivery contract will be subject to the condition that the purchase of the securities shall not at the time of delivery be prohibited under the laws of the jurisdiction to which the purchaser is subject. The underwriters and other agents will not have any responsibility with regard to the validity or performance of these delayed delivery contracts.

We may sell the securities in exchange in whole or part for consideration other than cash. This consideration may consist of services or products, whether tangible or intangible, and including services or products we may use in our business; outstanding debt or equity securities of our company or one or more of its subsidiaries; debt or equity securities or assets of other companies, including in connection with investments, joint ventures or other strategic transactions, or acquisitions; release of claims or settlement of disputes; and satisfaction of obligations, including

obligations to make payments to distributors or other suppliers and payment of interest on outstanding obligations. We may sell the securities as part of a transaction in which outstanding debt or equity securities of our company or one or more of our subsidiaries are surrendered, converted, exercised, canceled or transferred.

- 56 -



**Table of Contents**

**LEGAL MATTERS**

The legality of the securities offered hereby and certain tax matters will be passed upon for us by Clifford Chance US LLP, New York, New York.

- 57 -

**Table of Contents**

**EXPERTS**

The consolidated financial statements of Equity LifeStyle Properties, Inc. appearing in Equity LifeStyle Properties, Inc.'s Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2016 (including the schedule appearing therein), and the effectiveness of Equity LifeStyle Properties, Inc.'s internal control over financial reporting as of December 31, 2016 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 consolidated financial statements are incorporated herein by reference in reliance upon such reports given on the authority of such firm as experts in accounting and auditing.

**Table of Contents**

**WHERE YOU CAN FIND MORE INFORMATION**

We are subject to the informational requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended, and, in accordance therewith, we file annual, quarterly and current reports, proxy statements and other information with the SEC. You may read and copy any reports, statements or other information we file at the SEC's public reference rooms located at 100 F Street, NE, Washington, D.C. 20549. Please call the SEC at 1-800-SEC-0330 for further information on the public reference rooms. Our SEC filings are also available to the public from commercial document retrieval services and at the web site maintained by the SEC at <http://www.sec.gov>. We maintain a web site at [www.equitylifestyleproperties.com](http://www.equitylifestyleproperties.com). Our reference to our website is intended to be an inactive textual reference only. The information on our web site is not, and you must not consider the information to be, a part of, or incorporated by reference into, this prospectus. Our securities are listed on the NYSE and all such material filed by us with the NYSE also can be inspected at the offices of the NYSE, 20 Broad Street, New York, New York 10005.

We have filed with the SEC a registration statement on Form S-3, of which this prospectus is a part, under the Securities Act with respect to the securities. This prospectus does not contain all of the information set forth in the registration statement, certain parts of which are omitted in accordance with the rules and regulations of the SEC. For further information concerning our company and the securities, reference is made to the registration statement. Statements contained in this prospectus as to the contents of any contract or other documents are not necessarily complete, and in each instance, reference is made to the copy of such contract or documents filed as exhibits to the registration statement, each such statement being qualified in all respects by such reference.

**Table of Contents****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. This prospectus incorporates by reference the documents set forth below that we have previously filed with the SEC. These documents contain important information about us, our business and our finances.

<b>Document</b>	<b>Period</b>
Annual Report on Form 10-K (File No. 001-11718)	Year ended December 31, 2016
Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q (File No. 001-11718)	Quarter ended March 31, 2017
Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q (File No. 001-11718)	Quarter ended June 30, 2017
Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q (File No. 001-11718)	Quarter ended September 30, 2017

<b>Document</b>	<b>Period</b>
	January 18, 2017 (with respect to item 8.01 only)
	January 24, 2017 (with respect to Items 5.02 and 8.01 only)
	February 22, 2017
	March 20, 2017
	May 3, 2017
	July 26, 2017
	August 24, 2017
	September 15, 2017
	September 19, 2017 (with respect to item 8.01 only)
Current Reports on Form 8-K (File No. 001-11718)	November 2, 2017

<b>Document</b>	<b>Period</b>
Definitive Proxy Statement on Schedule 14A (File No. 001-11718)	March 17, 2017 (but only with respect to information required by Part III of our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2016)

<b>Document</b>	<b>Period</b>
-----------------	---------------

Edgar Filing: EQUITY LIFESTYLE PROPERTIES INC - Form 424B5

Description of our common stock in the Registration  
Statement on Form 8-A  
(File No. 001-11718)

February 9, 1993

Description of our common stock in the Registration  
Statement on Form 8-A/A  
(File No. 001-11718)

February 22, 1993

All documents that we file (but not those that we furnish) pursuant to Sections 13(a), 13(c), 14 or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended, after the date of this prospectus but before the end of any offering of securities made under this prospectus will also be considered to be incorporated by reference into this prospectus and will automatically update and supersede the information in this prospectus, and any previously filed documents.

If you request, either orally or in writing, we will provide you with a copy of any or all documents that are incorporated herein by reference. Such documents will be provided to you free of charge, but will not contain any exhibits, unless those exhibits are incorporated by reference into the document. Requests should be addressed to Equity LifeStyle Properties, Inc., Attention: Investor Relations, Two North Riverside Plaza, Suite 800, Chicago, Illinois 60606, telephone number: 1-800-247-5279, email: [investor\\_relations@equitylifestyle.com](mailto:investor_relations@equitylifestyle.com).

- 60 -

**Table of Contents**

**\$200,000,000**

**EQUITY LIFESTYLE PROPERTIES, INC.**

**Common Stock**

**PROSPECTUS SUPPLEMENT**

**Morgan Stanley**

**BofA Merrill Lynch**

**Goldman Sachs & Co. LLC**

**SunTrust Robinson Humphrey**

**Wells Fargo Securities**

**October 26, 2018**