

EQUITY LIFESTYLE PROPERTIES INC  
Form DEF 14A  
March 22, 2016

UNITED STATES  
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON, DC 20549

SCHEDULE 14A  
(Rule 14a-101)

INFORMATION REQUIRED IN PROXY STATEMENT

SCHEDULE 14A INFORMATION

Proxy Statement Pursuant to Section 14(a) of the Securities  
Exchange Act of 1934

Filed by the Registrant  [X]  
Filed by a Party other than the Registrant  [ ]

Check the appropriate box:

- [ ] Preliminary proxy statement
- [ ] Confidential, for Use of the Commission Only (as permitted by Rule 14a-6(e)(2))
- [X] Definitive proxy statement
- [ ] Definitive additional materials
- [ ] Soliciting Material pursuant to §14a-12

Name of Registrant as Specified in its Charter:

EQUITY LIFESTYLE PROPERTIES, INC.

Name of Person(s) Filing Proxy Statement if other than the Registrant:

N/A

Payment of filing fee (check the appropriate box):

[X] No fee required.

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1. Amount previously paid:

2. Form, Schedule or Registration Statement No.:

3. Filing party:

4. Date filed:

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EQUITY LIFESTYLE PROPERTIES, INC.  
Two North Riverside Plaza, Suite 800  
Chicago, Illinois 60606

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NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING OF STOCKHOLDERS  
To Be Held On May 10, 2016

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You are cordially invited to attend the 2016 Annual Meeting of Stockholders (the "Annual Meeting") of Equity LifeStyle Properties, Inc., a Maryland corporation (the "Company" or "we", "us" or "our"). The Annual Meeting will be held on Tuesday, May 10, 2016, at 9:00 a.m. Central Time at One South Wacker, Chicago, Illinois 60606. At the Annual Meeting, common stockholders of record at the close of business on March 4, 2016 (the "Record Date") will be asked to consider and vote upon:

- (1) The election of ten members of the Company's Board of Directors to serve until the next annual meeting of stockholders and until his or her successor is duly elected and qualified;
- (2) The ratification of the selection of Ernst & Young LLP as our independent registered public accounting firm for 2016;
- (3) The approval of executive compensation on a non-binding, advisory basis; and
- (4) The transaction of any other business properly brought before the Annual Meeting and at any adjournments or postponements thereof.

Your vote is important to us. Whether or not you plan to attend the Annual Meeting, we urge you to vote as soon as possible. Instructions on how to vote are contained in this Proxy Statement. Only common stockholders of record at the close of business on the Record Date will be entitled to notice of, and to vote at, the Annual Meeting, and at any adjournments or postponements thereof. If you attend the Annual Meeting, you may vote in person if you wish, even if you have previously voted. Please note, however, that if your shares are held of record by a broker, bank or other nominee and you wish to vote in person at the Annual Meeting, you must obtain a proxy issued in your name from such broker, bank or other nominee.

**IMPORTANT NOTICE REGARDING THE AVAILABILITY OF PROXY MATERIALS FOR THE ANNUAL MEETING TO BE HELD ON May 10, 2016.**

The Company's Proxy Statement for the 2016 Annual Meeting, its 2015 Annual Report and its Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2015 are available at <http://www.astproxyportal.com/ast/26115>.

Thank you for your continued support of Equity LifeStyle Properties, Inc.

By Order of the Board of Directors

David P. Eldersveld  
Executive Vice President, General Counsel and Corporate Secretary  
March 22, 2016



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EQUITY LIFESTYLE PROPERTIES, INC.  
Two North Riverside Plaza, Suite 800  
Chicago, Illinois 60606

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PROXY STATEMENT

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INTRODUCTION

This Proxy Statement contains information related to the 2016 Annual Meeting of Stockholders (the "Annual Meeting") of Equity LifeStyle Properties, Inc., a Maryland corporation (the "Company" or "we", "us", or "our"), which will be held on Tuesday, May 10, 2016, at 9:00 a.m. Central Time at One South Wacker, Chicago, Illinois 60606.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS ABOUT THE ANNUAL MEETING

What is the Purpose of the Annual Meeting?

At the Annual Meeting, stockholders will consider and vote on the following proposals (the "Proposals"):

• Proposal 1 – elect ten members of the Company's Board of Directors to serve until the next annual meeting of stockholders and until his or her successor is duly elected and qualified;

• Proposal 2 – ratify the selection of Ernst & Young LLP ("Ernst & Young"), as our independent registered public accounting firm ("Independent Accountants") for the fiscal year ending December 31, 2016; and

• Proposal 3 – approve executive compensation on a non-binding, advisory basis.

In addition, stockholders will consider any other business properly brought before the Annual Meeting.

Why did I receive a notice in the mail regarding Internet availability of proxy materials instead of a full set of proxy materials?

Pursuant to the Securities and Exchange Commission's ("SEC") notice and access rules, we have elected to provide access to our proxy materials over the Internet. Accordingly, on or about March 30, 2016, we began mailing to all stockholders of record at the close of business on March 4, 2016 (the "Record Date"), a Notice of Internet Availability of Proxy Materials (the "Notice"). All stockholders will have the ability to access the proxy materials on the website referred to in the Notice or may request to receive a set of the proxy materials in printed form by mail or electronically by email at no charge. Instructions on how to access the proxy materials over the Internet and how to request printed copies are included in the Notice.

How can I get electronic access to the proxy materials?

The Notice will provide you with instructions regarding how to:

• View our proxy materials for the Annual Meeting on the Internet; and

• Instruct us to send our future proxy materials to you electronically by email.

Choosing to receive your future proxy materials by email will save us the cost of printing and mailing documents to you and will reduce the impact of our Annual Meetings on the environment. If you choose to receive future proxy materials by email, you will receive an email next year with instructions containing a link to those materials and a link to the proxy voting site. Your election to receive proxy materials by email will remain in effect until you terminate it.

Who Is Entitled to Vote?

You will be entitled to vote your shares of the Company's common stock ("Common Stock") on the Proposals if you held your shares of Common Stock at the close of business on the Record Date. As of the Record Date, a total of 84,594,060 shares of Common Stock were outstanding and entitled to vote. Each share of Common Stock entitles its holder to cast one vote for each matter to be voted upon.



#### What Is Required to Hold the Annual Meeting?

The presence at the Annual Meeting, in person or by proxy, of the holders of a majority of the shares of Common Stock outstanding and entitled to vote on the Record Date will constitute a quorum permitting business to be conducted at the Annual Meeting. If you have returned valid proxy instructions or you attend the Annual Meeting and vote in person, your shares of Common Stock will be counted for purposes of determining whether there is a quorum, even if you abstain from voting on any or all matters introduced at the Annual Meeting.

#### How Do I Vote?

Your vote is important. Stockholders can vote in person at the Annual Meeting or by proxy. Stockholders can authorize a proxy over the Internet by following the instructions provided in the Notice, or if you requested printed copies of the proxy materials, you can also authorize a proxy by using a toll-free telephone number or completing a proxy card and mailing it in the postage-paid envelope provided. Please refer to your Notice or proxy card or the information forwarded by your bank, broker or other nominee to see which options are available to you. If you authorize a proxy over the Internet or by telephone, you do NOT need to return your proxy card. If you authorize a proxy, the individuals named on the proxy card as representatives will vote your shares of Common Stock in the manner you indicate. You may specify whether your shares of Common Stock should be voted for all, some or none of the nominees for director and whether your shares should be voted for or against the other proposals. Stockholders who wish to vote in person at the Annual Meeting will need to obtain a proxy from the broker, bank or other nominee that holds their shares of Common Stock of record.

#### Can I Change or Revoke My Proxy?

Yes, you may change your proxy at any time before the Annual Meeting by timely delivery of a properly executed, later-dated proxy (including Internet or phone proxy) or by voting in person at the Annual Meeting. You may revoke your proxy by filing a written notice with our Corporate Secretary at our address at any time before the Annual Meeting. The powers of the proxy holders will be suspended if you attend the Annual Meeting in person and request that they be so suspended. However, attendance (without further action) at the Annual Meeting will not by itself revoke a previously granted proxy.

#### What Are the Board's Recommendations?

If no instructions are indicated on your valid proxy, the representatives holding your proxy will vote in accordance with the recommendations of our Board of Directors (the "Board"). The Board unanimously recommends a vote:

**FOR** election of each of the nominees for director;

**FOR** ratification of the selection of Ernst & Young as our Independent Accountants for 2016; and

**FOR** approval of the executive compensation disclosed in this Proxy Statement.

With respect to any other matter that properly comes before the Annual Meeting or any adjournment or postponement thereof, the representatives holding proxies will vote as recommended by the Board, or if no recommendation is given, in their own discretion.

#### How Can I Manage the Number of Annual Reports I Receive?

Our 2015 Annual Report and Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2015 ("Form 10-K") have been provided to stockholders via our Notice. If you share an address with any of our other stockholders, your household might receive only one copy of the Notice. To request individual copies for each stockholder in your household, please contact Equity LifeStyle Properties, Inc., Attn: Investor Relations, at Two North Riverside Plaza, Suite 800, Chicago, Illinois 60606 (toll-free number: 1-800-247-5279 or email:

investor\_relations@equitylifestyle.com). To ask that only one Notice be mailed to your household, please contact your bank, broker or other nominee or, if you are a stockholder of record, please call our transfer agent, American Stock Transfer and Trust Company, LLC toll-free at 1-800-830-9942.

#### What Vote is Needed to Approve Each Proposal?

Following are the votes needed to approve each Proposal at the Annual Meeting. For all Proposals a quorum must be present at the Annual Meeting.

Proposal 1: The affirmative vote of a plurality of all the votes cast by stockholders of record is necessary to elect the nominees for director.



Proposal 2: The affirmative vote of a majority of all the votes cast by stockholders of record is required to ratify the selection of Ernst & Young as our Independent Accountants for 2016.

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Proposal 3: The affirmative vote of a majority of all the votes cast by stockholders of record is required to approve, on a non-binding, advisory basis, the executive compensation of our named executive officers as disclosed in this Proxy Statement.

Other Matters: The affirmative vote of a majority of all the votes cast by stockholders of record is required to approve any other matters properly presented at the Annual Meeting for stockholder approval.

We will treat abstentions as shares that are present and entitled to vote for purposes of determining the presence or absence of a quorum. Abstentions do not constitute a vote "for" or "against" any matter being voted on at the Annual Meeting and will not be counted as "votes cast." Therefore, abstentions will have no effect on any of the Proposals, assuming a quorum is present. Broker "non-votes," or proxies from brokers or nominees indicating that such broker or nominee has not received instructions from the beneficial owner or other entity entitled to vote such shares on a particular matter with respect to which such broker or nominee does not have discretionary voting power, will be treated in the same manner as abstentions for purposes of the Annual Meeting. If you are a beneficial owner whose shares of Common Stock are held of record by a broker, your broker has discretionary voting authority under New York Stock Exchange ("NYSE") rules to vote your shares on Proposal 2 even if the broker does not receive voting instructions from you. However, under NYSE rules, your broker does not have discretionary authority to vote on Proposals 1 and 3 without instructions from you, in which case a broker "non-vote" will occur and your shares of Common Stock will not be voted on these matters. None of the Proposals, if approved, entitle any of the stockholders to appraisal rights under Maryland law.

How is My Vote Counted?

If you properly execute a proxy by mail, telephone or over the Internet, and if we receive it prior to voting at the Annual Meeting, the shares of Common Stock that the proxy represents will be voted in the manner specified in the proxy. If no specification is made, the Common Stock will be voted "for" the election of the nominees for director named in this Proxy Statement, "for" ratification of the selection of Ernst & Young as our Independent Accountants for 2016, "for" approval of the executive compensation disclosed in this Proxy Statement, and as recommended by the Board with regard to all other matters in its discretion. It is not anticipated that any matters other than those set forth in this Proxy Statement will be presented at the Annual Meeting. If other matters are presented, proxies will be voted as recommended by the Board, or if there is no recommendation, in the discretion of the proxy holders. No valid stockholder proposals or nominations were received on a timely basis, so no such matters may be brought to a vote at the Annual Meeting.

Who is Soliciting My Proxy?

This solicitation of proxies is made by and on behalf of the Board. We will pay the cost of solicitation of the proxies. We have retained American Stock Transfer and Trust Company, LLC to assist, at a de minimis cost, in the solicitation of proxies. In addition to the solicitation of proxies by mail, our directors, officers and employees may solicit proxies personally or by telephone at a de minimis cost.

No person is authorized on our behalf to give any information or to make any representations with respect to the Proposals other than the information and representations contained in this Proxy Statement, and, if given or made, such information and/or representations must not be relied upon as having been authorized, and the delivery of this Proxy Statement shall not, under any circumstances, create any implication that there has been no change in our affairs since the date hereof.

## CORPORATE GOVERNANCE

Governance Policies, Code of Ethics and Committee Charters

The Board regularly evaluates the Company's corporate governance policies and benchmarks those policies against the rules and regulations of governmental authorities, the best practices of other public companies and suggestions received from various authorities. The Board has adopted the Company's Guidelines on Corporate Governance, as amended. The Company's Guidelines on Corporate Governance require that a majority of the directors be independent within the meaning of NYSE standards. The Company's Common Stock is listed on the NYSE under the ticker symbol "ELS." The Company's 6.75% Series C Cumulative Redeemable Perpetual Preferred Stock is listed on the NYSE under the ticker symbol "ELSPrC." The Company has also adopted a Business Ethics and Conduct Policy, which

applies to all directors, officers and employees of the Company. We will disclose on our website any amendment to, or waiver of, any provision of the Business Ethics and Conduct Policy applicable to our directors and executive officers that would otherwise be required to be disclosed under the rules of the SEC or NYSE.

Our Guidelines on Corporate Governance include a director resignation policy, whereby an incumbent director who fails to receive a majority of the votes cast in an uncontested election is expected to submit his or her resignation. If an incumbent director fails to receive such a majority vote and tenders his or her resignation, the Compensation, Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee (the "Compensation Committee") will make a recommendation to the Board as to whether to accept or reject the

tendered resignation, or whether other action is recommended, taking into account any information that it considers appropriate and relevant, including the circumstances that led to the failure to receive the vote, if known. The Board will act on the tendered resignation within ninety (90) days following certification of the stockholder vote and will promptly disclose its decision and rationale as to whether to accept the resignation (or the reasons for rejecting the resignation, if applicable) in a press release, filing with the SEC or by other public announcement. On an annual basis, a Board evaluation process is completed whereby the Board's Lead Director (the "Lead Director"), Sheli Rosenberg, conducts interviews independently with each Director. The evaluation process includes an assessment of the performance of the Board as a whole, and individual Board members, with a focus on areas such as independence and objectivity, attendance, participation and input, knowledge and expertise, insightfulness and forethought, preparation and commitment to improvement. The Lead Director discusses the results of these evaluations with the Board members individually as necessitated and with the Board as a whole.

The Guidelines on Corporate Governance, the Business Ethics and Conduct Policy, the charters of the Board's Audit Committee and Compensation Committee, and our Political Contributions Policy are each available on our website at [www.equitylifestyle.com](http://www.equitylifestyle.com), and copies may be obtained free of charge by sending a written request to Equity LifeStyle Properties, Inc., Attn: Investor Relations, Two North Riverside Plaza, Suite 800, Chicago, Illinois 60606, or by emailing our Company's Investor Relations Department at [investor\\_relations@equitylifestyle.com](mailto:investor_relations@equitylifestyle.com).

#### Stockholder Communications with the Board

The Board's Lead Director is Sheli Rosenberg who, as an independent director, acts in the lead capacity to coordinate the other independent directors, consults with our Chief Executive Officer on Board agendas, chairs the executive sessions of the non-management directors and performs such other functions as the Board may direct. Any stockholder or other interested party who has a concern or inquiry regarding the conduct of the Company may communicate directly with the Lead Director, who will receive all such communications on behalf of the Board or the non-management directors (as applicable). Communications may be confidential or anonymous, and may be submitted in writing to the Lead Director, c/o Corporate Secretary, Equity LifeStyle Properties, Inc., Two North Riverside Plaza, Suite 800, Chicago, Illinois 60606. All written communications will be received and processed by the Corporate Secretary of the Company, and all substantive communications will be referred to the Lead Director. All such communications will be reviewed and, if necessary, investigated and/or addressed by the Lead Director and the status of such communications will be reported to the Board or the non-management directors (as applicable) on a quarterly basis. The Lead Director may direct special treatment, including the retention of outside advisors or counsel, for any such concern or inquiry.

Although each director is encouraged to attend each Annual Meeting of Stockholders, the Board has no formal policy with respect to such attendance. Nine of the ten directors in office as of the date of the 2015 Annual Meeting of Stockholders attended that meeting.

#### Non-Management Directors' Executive Sessions

Executive sessions of the Company's non-management directors are scheduled in connection with regularly scheduled meetings of the Board and are held without management present. Executive sessions may also be held at such other times as requested by the non-management directors. The Lead Director presides at these executive sessions. During the year ended December 31, 2015, the non-management directors held four executive sessions.

#### Board Leadership Structure and Role in Risk Oversight

The Company has separated the positions of chairman of the board and chief executive officer since 1996. Samuel Zell currently serves as Chairman of the Board, and Marguerite Nader currently serves as our President and Chief Executive Officer ("CEO") and is a member of the Board. Ms. Rosenberg, an independent director, serves as the Board's Lead Director as discussed above. The Board has determined that this leadership structure is appropriate as it allows the CEO to focus on our day-to-day business, while allowing the Chairman of the Board to lead the Board in its fundamental role of providing advice to and independent oversight of management.

Risk is inherent with every business, and how well a business manages risk can ultimately determine its success. The Company faces a number of risks, including economic, environmental and regulatory risks, and others such as the impact of competition and weather conditions. The Company believes one way to manage risk is to maintain balance sheet flexibility and evaluate major capital items, including dividend policy, debt policy, acquisitions and dispositions,

and equity and debt issuances, in light of the potential impact on financial flexibility. Management is responsible for the day-to-day management of risks the Company faces, while the Board, as a whole and through its committees, has responsibility for the oversight of risk management. In its risk oversight role, the Board has the responsibility to satisfy itself that the risk management processes designed by management are adequate and functioning as designed.

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The Board believes that establishing the right "tone at the top" and full and open communications between management and the Board are essential for effective risk management and oversight. Our CEO meets quarterly with Board Committee chairpersons updating them on a variety of matters, including risk management and related controls. Our executive officers attend each quarterly Board meeting and are available to address any questions or concerns raised by the Board on risk management-related and any other matters. At the quarterly Board meetings, the Board receives presentations from our executive officers on strategic matters involving the Company's operations.

While the Board is ultimately responsible for risk oversight at the Company, our three Board Committees assist the Board in fulfilling its oversight responsibilities in certain areas of risk. The Audit Committee of the Board (the "Audit Committee") assists the Board in fulfilling its oversight responsibilities with respect to risk management in the areas of financial reporting, internal controls, compliance with legal and regulatory requirements, and cybersecurity; and, in accordance with NYSE requirements, discusses policies with respect to risk assessment and risk management. Risk assessment reports are regularly provided by management to the Audit Committee, including reports relating to regulatory, environmental and cybersecurity matters. The Compensation Committee assists the Board in fulfilling its oversight responsibilities with respect to the management of risks arising from our compensation policies and programs and risks associated with Board organization, membership and structure, succession planning, and corporate governance. The Executive Committee of the Board (the "Executive Committee") assists the Board in fulfilling its oversight responsibilities with respect to the management of risks associated with the acquisition, disposition and financing of investments for the Company.

Committees of the Board; Meetings

Meetings: During the year ended December 31, 2015, the Board held four meetings and took four actions by unanimous written consent. Each of the directors attended 75% or more of the total number of the meetings of the Board and the committees on which he or she served.

Executive Committee: The Executive Committee of the Board is comprised of Howard Walker (Chair), Mr. Zell and Ms. Rosenberg. The Executive Committee has the authority, within certain parameters set by the Board, to authorize the acquisition, disposition and financing of investments by the Company (including the issuance of additional limited partnership interests of MHC Operating Limited Partnership) and to authorize contracts and agreements, including those related to the borrowing of money by the Company, and generally exercise all other powers of the Board except as prohibited by law. During the year ended December 31, 2015, the Executive Committee did not hold any meetings and took three actions by unanimous written consent.

Compensation, Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee: The Compensation Committee is comprised of Ms. Rosenberg (Chair), Gary Waterman and David Contis. The Board has determined that each of the Compensation Committee members is an "independent" director within the meaning set forth in the NYSE listing standards. On March 8, 2016, Mr. Waterman announced that he would retire from the Board effective May 10, 2016. At the May 10, 2016 Board meeting, the Board will appoint an independent member of the Board to replace Mr. Waterman on the Compensation Committee. The Compensation Committee is governed by the Charter of the Compensation, Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee, a copy of which is available on our website. The Compensation Committee determines compensation for our executive officers and exercises the powers of the Board in connection with compensation matters, including incentive compensation and benefit plans. The Compensation Committee receives recommendations regarding executive compensation from our CEO and considers these recommendations in determining appropriate compensation plans. The Compensation Committee does not delegate its authority in regards to establishing executive compensation. The Compensation Committee retained FPL Associates LP as its independent outside compensation consulting firm to provide the Compensation Committee with relevant data concerning the marketplace, our peer group and an independent analysis and recommendation concerning executive compensation for 2015. The Compensation Committee also has the authority to grant stock awards under our equity compensation plans, such as the 2014 Equity Incentive Plan. All stock award grants to independent members of the Board are recommended by the Compensation Committee and approved by the Board. In addition, the Compensation Committee identifies and recommends qualified individuals to become Board members (as described further below), develops and recommends the Guidelines on Corporate Governance applicable to the Company, recommends to the Board director nominees for each committee of the Board and directs the Board in an annual review of its performance. During the

year ended December 31, 2015, the Compensation Committee held seven meetings and took one action by unanimous written consent. The "Compensation Committee Report" is included herein.

Audit Committee: The Audit Committee is comprised of Philip Calian (Chair), Thomas Dobrowski, David Contis and William Young. The Board has determined that each of the Audit Committee members is an "independent" director within the meaning set forth in the NYSE listing standards and Rule 10A-3 under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended (the "Exchange Act"). The Board has also determined that Mr. Calian, Mr. Dobrowski, Mr. Contis and Mr. Young are each an "audit committee financial expert" as that term is defined by the SEC in Item 407(d)(5) of Regulation S-K. The Audit Committee is governed by the Audit Committee Charter, a copy of which is available on our website. The Audit Committee is responsible for, among other

things, engaging our Independent Accountants, reviewing with our Independent Accountants the plans for and results of the audit engagement, approving professional services provided by our Independent Accountants, reviewing the independence of our Independent Accountants, considering the range of audit and non-audit fees and reviewing the adequacy of the Company's internal accounting controls and accounting and reporting practices and assessing the quality and integrity of our audited financial statements. The Audit Committee has also established procedures for the processing of complaints received from employees regarding internal control, accounting and auditing matters. During the year ended December 31, 2015, the Audit Committee held ten meetings and did not take any action by unanimous written consent. The "Audit Committee Report" is included herein.

#### Board Member Nominations

Nominees for director are selected by the Compensation Committee, which will consider nominees recommended by stockholders. If you wish to recommend a person whom you consider qualified to serve on the Board, you must give written notice to the Corporate Secretary of the Company in accordance with the requirements described in "Stockholder Proposals." This notice must contain: (i) as to each nominee, all information that would be required to be disclosed in a proxy statement with respect to the election of directors pursuant to the Exchange Act, (ii) the name and address of the stockholder giving the notice, (iii) the number of shares of Common Stock owned beneficially and of record by such stockholder, and (iv) the written consent of each nominee to serve as a director if so elected. The Compensation Committee will consider and evaluate persons recommended by stockholders in the same manner as potential nominees identified by the Board and/or the Compensation Committee. For the upcoming Annual Meeting, the Compensation Committee did not receive any recommendations for nominees from stockholders.

The Compensation Committee identifies nominees for director from various sources. In assessing potential director nominees, the Compensation Committee considers the character, background and professional experience of candidates. All nominees should possess good judgment and an inquiring and independent mind. Familiarity with the issues affecting the Company is among the relevant criteria. All director nominees must possess a reputation for the highest personal and professional ethics, integrity and values. The Compensation Committee will also carefully consider any potential conflicts of interest. Nominees must also be willing and able to devote sufficient time and effort to carrying out the duties and responsibilities of a director effectively, and should be committed to serving on the Board for an extended period of time. Neither the Company nor the Compensation Committee has a formal policy with regard to the consideration of diversity in identifying and evaluating director nominees, although both may consider diversity when identifying and evaluating potential director nominees. As detailed above, the Compensation Committee strives to nominate directors with a variety of complementary skills so that, if elected, the Board will contain the appropriate mix of diversity in background and experience to oversee the Company's business.

#### Biographical Information

Set forth below are biographies of each of the Company's current executive officers. Biographies of the director nominees are set forth below in Proposal 1.

##### Executive Officers

Marguerite Nader, 47, has been President and Chief Executive Officer of the Company since February 2013. For her biographical information, please see Proposal 1 below.

Paul Seavey, 47, has been Executive Vice President, Chief Financial Officer and Treasurer of the Company since January 2014. He was Senior Vice President, Chief Financial Officer and Treasurer from October 2012 to January 2014. Mr. Seavey was Senior Vice President of Finance and Treasurer from May 2012 to October 2012; Senior Vice President and Treasurer from December 2011 to May 2012; Vice President of Financial Planning and Treasurer from January 2009 to December 2011; and Vice President of Financial Planning from December 2001 to January 2009. Mr. Seavey has been employed with the Company since 1994.

Patrick Waite, 49, has been Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer of the Company since January 2015. He was Executive Vice President - Property Operations from January 2014 to January 2015 and Senior Vice President of Operations from February 2013 to January 2014. Prior to joining the Company, Mr. Waite was senior vice president of Asset Management at American Residential Communities, a private operator of manufactured housing communities, from January 2010 through January 2013. He was vice president of Riverside Communities, a manufactured home community affiliate of Helix Funds LLC, from August 2004 to January 2010. Mr. Waite



co-founded Continental Communities, a private operator of manufactured home communities, and managed its acquisition program from 1997 to 2001. Mr. Waite was the Director of Acquisitions for the Company from 1993 to 1997.

Roger Maynard, 58, has been Executive Vice President – Investments of the Company since March 2016. He was Executive Vice President - Asset Management from February 2009 to March 2016. Mr. Maynard was Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer from December 2005 to February 2009; Chief Operating Officer from January 2004 to December 2005; and Senior Vice President for national operations from January 2003 to December 2003. Mr. Maynard was Senior Regional Vice President for the Company's Eastern division from September 2001 to December 2002, and Senior Regional Vice President for the Company's Southeastern region from January 2000 to September 2001. Mr. Maynard was Regional Vice President for the Company's Southeastern region from June 1998 to December 1999, and Regional Vice President for the Company's Northeastern region from October 1997 to June 1998.

## PROPOSAL NO. 1

### ELECTION OF DIRECTORS

#### Independence of Directors

Pursuant to the Company's Guidelines on Corporate Governance, which require that a majority of our directors be independent within the meaning of NYSE standards and do not include any additional categorical standards other than those required by the NYSE, the Board undertook a review of the independence of directors nominated for re-election at the upcoming Annual Meeting. During this review, the Board considered transactions and relationships, if any, during the prior year between each director or any member of his or her immediate family and the Company, including those reported under "Certain Relationships and Related Transactions" below. As provided in the Guidelines, the purpose of this review was to determine whether any such relationships or transactions were inconsistent with a determination that the director is independent.

As a result of this review, the Board affirmatively determined that all the directors nominated for election at the Annual Meeting are independent of the Company and its management with the exception of our CEO Marguerite Nader. The Board determined that none of the independent directors has or had a material relationship with the Company other than being a director and/or a stockholder of the Company.

The Board specifically considered Mr. Zell's affiliation to Two North Riverside Plaza Joint Venture Limited Partnership, which provides office space to the Company as further described in "Certain Relationships and Related Transactions" below. The Board determined that this relationship between the Company and Two North Riverside Joint Venture Plaza does not breach NYSE bright line tests and did not hinder Mr. Zell's independence. The Board considered that Mr. Zell's net worth has been estimated in excess of \$4 billion and that the payments to Two North Riverside Joint Venture Plaza are substantially less than one percent of the aggregate revenues of the Zell family trusts and Mr. Zell's interests. The Board further considered Mr. Zell's prior role as interim CEO for the eighteen-month period from March 1995 to August 1996, to allow time for transition to a new CEO. During such time, Mr. Zell did not receive compensation for his role as interim CEO and was not subject to an employment agreement, nor did he receive any severance, long-term health or pension benefits. The Board determined that Mr. Zell's prior role as interim CEO did not hinder Mr. Zell's independence.

The Board specifically considered Mr. Walker's and Mr. Heneghan's respective roles as former CEOs of the Company, and determined that these roles did not hinder Mr. Walker's or Mr. Heneghan's independence within the meaning of the NYSE listing standards.

#### General Information about the Nominees

The Company's Board currently consists of eleven directors. On March 8, 2016, Mr. Waterman informed the Board that he would retire from the Board effective May 10, 2016. As a result, the Board will be reduced from eleven directors to ten directors. Mr. Waterman's retirement is not a result of any disagreement with other Board members or the Company's management. The Company's Charter currently provides for the annual election of all directors. All the nominees are presently directors, and each nominee has consented to be named in this Proxy Statement and to serve if elected.

#### Biographical Information

Set forth below are biographies of each of the nominees for director.

Samuel Zell, 74, has been Chairman of the Board of the Company since March 1995, and was CEO from March 1995 to August 1996. Mr. Zell was Co-Chairman of the Board from December 1992 until March 1995. Mr. Zell was a

director of Mobile Home Communities, Inc., the former manager of the Company's manufactured home communities, from 1983 until its dissolution in 1993. Mr. Zell has served as chairman of Equity Group Investments ("EGI"), a private investment company and division of

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Chai Trust Company, LLC ("Chai Trust"), since January 2012 and served as chairman and president of EGI from 1999 through 2011. EGI provides investment management and accounting services to the Zell family trusts. Mr. Zell is also the co-founder and chairman of Equity International, a private investment firm focused on real estate-related companies outside the United States. For more than the past five years, Mr. Zell has served as chairman of the board of Anixter International, Inc., a global supplier of communications and security products; and as chairman of the board of Equity Residential, a real estate investment trust ("REIT") that owns and operates apartment properties. Mr. Zell has been chairman of the board of Equity Commonwealth, an office REIT, since May 2014. Mr. Zell has been chairman of the board of Covanta Holding Corporation, an international leader in converting waste to energy, since September 2005, was previously a director from 1999 until 2004, and served as its president, chairman and chief executive officer from July 2002 to October 2004. Mr. Zell served as chairman of the board of Capital Trust, Inc., a specialized finance company ("Capital Trust") until December 2012. Mr. Zell served as a director of Tribune Company, a private media conglomerate, from May 2007 to December 2012, as chairman from December 2007 to December 2012, and as chief executive officer from December 2007 to December 2009. In December 2008, the Tribune Company filed for protection under Chapter 11 of the Bankruptcy Code. Mr. Zell was a trustee and chairman of the board of trustees of Equity Office Properties Trust ("EOP"), a REIT primarily focused on office buildings, from October 1996 until its sale in February 2007, and was its chief executive officer from April 2002 to April 2003, and its president from April 2002 to November 2002. Mr. Zell was the chairman of the board of Rewards Network, Inc. (previously known as iDine Rewards Network, Inc.), an administrator of loyalty-based consumer reward programs, from 2002 until 2005.

Howard Walker, 76, has been Co-Vice Chairman of the Board of the Company since February 2013, was Vice Chairman of the Board from May 2003 to February 2013, and has been Chair of the Board's Executive Committee since January 2004. Mr. Walker has been a director of the Company since November 1997. Mr. Walker has been retired from the Company since December 2003. Mr. Walker was Chief Executive Officer of the Company from December 1997 to December 2003. Mr. Walker was President of the Company from September 1997 to May 2000, and President of Realty Systems, Inc., an affiliate of the Company, from March 1995 to April 2000. Mr. Walker was a Vice President of the Company from January 1995 to March 1995.

Thomas Heneghan, 52, has been Co-Vice Chairman of the Board since February 2013 and a director of the Company since March 2004. Mr. Heneghan has been chief executive officer of Equity International since February 2013. Mr. Heneghan was Chief Executive Officer of the Company from January 2004 to February 2013 and President of the Company from February 2011 to May 2012. He was also President of the Company from January 2004 to January 2008. Mr. Heneghan was President and Chief Operating Officer of the Company from May 2000 to December 2003. He was Executive Vice President, Chief Financial Officer and Treasurer of the Company from April 1997 to May 2000, and Vice President, Chief Financial Officer and Treasurer of the Company from February 1995 to March 1997. He is a board member of Home Partners of America, a single family housing investment platform; e-Shang Redwood (formerly The Redwood Group), an owner, operator and developer of warehouse properties in China, Japan and Korea; SAMHI Hotels Ltd, an owner and developer of hospitality assets across India; and Acosta Verde, an owner, operator and developer of shopping centers in Mexico. He is a senior managing director of Chai Trust. He is a member of the Urban Land Institute's Global Exchange Council, and a board member of the Global Real Estate Institute.

Philip Calian, 53, has been a director of the Company since October 2005. Mr. Calian has been founder and managing partner of Kingsbury Partners LLC since January 2003, and an operating partner of Waveland Investments LLC since July 2004. Kingsbury Partners LLC is a private equity and consulting firm focused on providing capital and ownership skills to middle market distressed businesses and Waveland Investments LLC is a Chicago-based private equity firm with committed equity capital. Prior to founding Kingsbury Partners LLC, Mr. Calian was chief executive officer of American Classic Voyages Co., a publicly-traded travel and leisure company, from 1995 until 2002. Mr. Calian is managing member of MCS Investment Group, LLC, a private producer and seller of mineral well brine; Hudson Lock, LLC, a private lock and hardware manufacturer; and Lewis County Press, LLC, a community newspaper publisher. He is a director of Cottingham & Butler, Inc., a private insurance broker; and CC-Development Group, Inc., a private owner, developer and operator of senior living communities.

David Contis, 57, has been a director of the Company since February 2009. Mr. Contis has been president - mall platform and senior executive vice president of Simon Properties Group, Inc., a publicly-traded retail REIT, since May 2011. Mr. Contis was president of real estate for EGI from November 2006 to May 2011. He was executive vice president and chief operating officer of The Macerich Company, a publicly-traded shopping center REIT from May 1997 to October 2006. Mr. Contis was employed in various capacities by affiliates of EGI from 1980 to 1997, including as vice chairman, executive vice president and chief operating officer of Equity Properties & Development L.P. from 1992 to 1997. He served on the board of directors of BRMalls, Brazil's largest shopping center company from 2008 to 2011. Mr. Contis was a director and served as a member of the board of directors, compensation committee and audit committee of Dundee Realty Corp., a Canadian-based real estate company from 1997 to 2003. In addition, he was a trustee of the International Council of Shopping Centers.

Thomas Dobrowski, 72, has been a director of the Company since March 1993. Mr. Dobrowski has been retired from General Motors Investment Management Corporation ("GMIMC") since October 2005. He was the managing director of real estate and alternative investments of GMIMC from December 1994 to September 2005. Mr. Dobrowski is a director of Blackstone Mortgage Trust. He was also a trustee of EOP until its sale in 2007, and was a former director of Taubman Centers, Inc. and Red Roof Inns, Inc.

Tao Huang, 52, has been a director of the Company since November 2015. Mr. Huang is a founder and managing partner of Range Light, LLC, an investment firm. He was previously the chief operating officer of Morningstar, Inc., a leading independent provider of investment research, from October 2000 until his retirement in December 2010. Mr. Huang spent almost 20 years with Morningstar, taking on increasing levels of responsibility from his start as an entry level technical programmer. He was named director of technology in 1992 and chief technology officer in 1996; he started Morningstar's international operation in 1998, and was promoted to chief operating officer in October 2000. Mr. Huang is a director of Armstrong World Wide Industries, a leading building materials company since 2010, Principal Mutual Funds, an asset management firm since 2013, and SMS Assist, L.L.C., a property management company since 2012.

Marguerite Nader, 47, has been a director of the Company since March 2013. Ms. Nader has been President and CEO of the Company since February 2013. She was President and Chief Financial Officer from May 2012 to October 2012 and Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer from December 2011 to May 2012. Ms. Nader was Executive Vice President - New Business Development from February 2011 to December 2011. She was Executive Vice President - Sales and Marketing from February 2009 to February 2011. Ms. Nader was Senior Vice President of New Business Development from January 2007 to February 2009. She was Vice President of New Business Development from January 2001 to January 2007. Ms. Nader was Vice President of Asset Management from January 1998 to January 2001. She has been employed with the Company since 1993. Ms. Nader has served on the National Association of Real Estate Investment Trust ("NAREIT") Board of Governors since 2013.

Sheli Rosenberg, 74, has been a director of the Company since August 1996, and has been the Board's Lead Director since 2002. Ms. Rosenberg has been a consultant to Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom LLP since January 2014 and was Of Counsel at Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom LLP from May 2011 to December 2013. She is the former president, chief executive officer and vice chairman of EGI. Ms. Rosenberg joined EGI in 1994 as the company's general counsel and rose to become vice chairman from 2000 to 2003 and chief executive officer from 1999 to 2000 before departing in 2003. Prior to joining EGI, she was a principal of the law firm of Rosenberg & Liebenritt from 1980 to 1997. Ms. Rosenberg is a director of Spirit Realty Capital, a net-lease REIT. Ms. Rosenberg was the lead director of Strategic Hotels & Resorts, Inc., a hotel REIT, until its sale in 2015, and Cellular Dynamics International, a producer of stem cells utilized primarily in research, until its sale in 2015. She is a former director of General Growth Properties, Inc., CVS Caremark Corporation, Capital Trust, Inc., Avis Budget Group, Inc., Nanosphere, Inc., and Ventas, Inc., and a former trustee of Equity Residential and Equity Office Properties. Ms. Rosenberg was an adjunct professor at Northwestern University's J.L. Kellogg Graduate School of Management from 2003 until 2007. A recognized advocate for women in business, she is a co-founder and former president of the Center for Executive Women at the Kellogg School, where she continues to serve on the Center's steering committee.

William Young, 51, has been a director of the Company since March 2013. Mr. Young is the managing partner and co-founder of Home Partners of America, LLC, a single family housing investment platform formed in June 2012. He was a managing director and a member of the investment committee for the distressed debt fund of EGI from 2009 to 2011. Mr. Young was a managing director and partner at Goldman Sachs & Co. and Goldman Sachs International from 2001 to 2008 where he held a variety of positions including co-head of the European Mortgage Department and the co-head of the Global Infrastructure Investment Fund. Mr. Young worked at Citibank from 1987 to 2001 where he worked in Leveraged Finance, Commercial Real Estate work-outs and ultimately led the firm's European Securitization and Real Estate Finance Group. Mr. Young was a director of Energy Future Holdings Corp from 2007 to 2008.

In addition to each director nominee's qualifications, experience and skills outlined in their biographical data above, the Company's Board looked for certain attributes in each of the nominee directors and based on these attributes, concluded that each director nominee should serve on the Board. The Board does not require that the director

nominees possess each attribute, but rather the Board is looking for a mix of attributes across the board members. These attributes include: (i) prior experience on the Board and other relevant board level experience, (ii) real estate industry experience, (iii) transactional experience especially within the real estate industry; (iv) relevant experience in property operations; (v) financial expertise; (vi) legal and/or regulatory experience; (vii) knowledge of and experience with corporate governance matters, (viii) experience with executive compensation matters, and (ix) prior experience in risk management.

The following table shows the attributes of each director nominee.

|                  | Board Experience | Real Estate Industry | Transactional | Property Operations | Financial Expertise | Legal / Regulatory | Corporate Governance | Executive Compensation | Risk Management |
|------------------|------------------|----------------------|---------------|---------------------|---------------------|--------------------|----------------------|------------------------|-----------------|
| Samuel Zell      | X                | X                    | X             | X                   | X                   | X                  | X                    | X                      | X               |
| Howard Walker    | X                | X                    | X             | X                   | X                   | X                  | X                    | X                      | X               |
| Thomas Heneghan  | X                | X                    | X             | X                   | X                   | X                  | X                    | X                      | X               |
| Philip Calian    | X                | X                    | X             | X                   | X                   | X                  | X                    | X                      | X               |
| David Contis     | X                | X                    | X             | X                   | X                   | X                  | X                    | X                      | X               |
| Thomas Dobrowski | X                | X                    | X             | X                   | X                   |                    | X                    | X                      | X               |
| Tao Huang        | X                |                      |               |                     | X                   |                    |                      | X                      | X               |
| Marguerite Nader | X                | X                    | X             | X                   | X                   | X                  | X                    | X                      | X               |
| Sheli Rosenberg  | X                | X                    | X             |                     | X                   | X                  | X                    | X                      | X               |
| William Young    | X                | X                    | X             |                     | X                   |                    | X                    | X                      | X               |

#### Director Compensation

The following table includes compensation information for the year ended December 31, 2015 for each non-employee member of the Board.

| Name                         | Fees Earned or Paid in Cash (\$) <sup>(1)</sup> | Stock Awards (\$) <sup>(2)</sup> | Option Awards (\$) <sup>(2)</sup> | Non-Equity Incentive Plan Compensation (\$) | All Other Compensation (\$) <sup>(3)</sup> | Total (\$) |
|------------------------------|---|----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|---|--|------------|
| Philip Calian                | 50,000  | 300,022                          | -                                 | -   | -  | 350,022    |
| David Contis                 | 50,000  | 170,003                          | -                                 | -   | -  | 220,003    |
| Thomas Dobrowski             | 50,000  | 170,003                          | -                                 | -   | -  | 220,003    |
| Thomas Heneghan              | 50,000  | 170,003                          | -                                 | -   | -  | 220,003    |
| Tao Huang                    | 8,334   | 28,290                           | -                                 | -   | -  | 36,624     |
| Sheli Rosenberg              | 50,000  | 300,022                          | -                                 | -   | -  | 350,022    |
| Howard Walker                | 150,000   | 300,022                          | -                                 | -   | -  | 450,022    |
| Gary Waterman <sup>(4)</sup> | 50,000  | 170,003                          | -                                 | -   | -  | 220,003    |
| William Young                | 50,000  | 170,003                          | -                                 | -   | -  | 220,003    |
| Samuel Zell                  | 50,000  | 2,411,040                        | -                                 | -   | -  | 2,461,040  |

For 2015, the Company paid each of its non-employee directors an annual fee of \$50,000. Mr. Huang received a pro-rated fee of \$8,334 for his services rendered from the time of his election on November 3, 2015 through December 2015. The Company did not pay an additional fee to Board members for serving on a Committee. Mr. (1) Walker earned an additional \$100,000 for acting as a resource to senior management in 2015 on behalf of the Board, which was paid in January 2016. Directors who are employees of the Company are not paid any directors' fees.

(2)



These amounts reflect the grant date fair value, as calculated in accordance with FASB ASC Topic 718 "Stock Compensation" ("FASB ASC 718"), related to restricted stock grants made in 2015.

Refer to Note 14, "Equity Incentive Awards," in the Notes to the Consolidated Financial Statements included in the Company's 2015 Form 10-K filed on February 23, 2016 for the relevant assumptions used to determine the valuation of our restricted stock awards.

On January 26, 2015, upon the recommendation of the Compensation Committee, the Board approved an award of Restricted Common Stock to be granted to the Chairman of the Board, the Compensation Committee Chairperson and Lead Director, the Executive Committee Chairperson, and the Audit Committee Chairperson on February 2, 2015 for their services rendered in such capacity in 2015. Each recipient was allowed to take such shares as options to purchase shares of Common Stock equal to five times the number of shares of Restricted Common Stock that would have been awarded. Each recipient elected to take their award as Restricted Common Stock. On February 2, 2015, Mr. Zell was awarded 40,000 shares of Restricted Common Stock for services rendered as Chairman of the Board for 2015. Ms. Rosenberg, Mr. Walker and Mr. Calian were each awarded shares of Restricted Common Stock valued at \$130,000. The number of shares of Restricted Common Stock awarded to Ms. Rosenberg, Mr. Walker and Mr. Calian was determined by dividing \$130,000 by the closing price of the Company's Common Stock on the grant date or \$54.93. Ms. Rosenberg, Mr. Walker and Mr. Calian were each awarded 2,367 shares of Restricted Common Stock. Such shares were granted at a per share price of \$54.93, the NYSE closing price of the Company's Common Stock on February 2, 2015. One-third of these shares of Restricted Common Stock vested on December 31, 2015, one-third will vest on December 31, 2016, and one-third will vest on December 31, 2017.

On May 12, 2015, upon recommendation of the Compensation Committee, the Board approved an award of Restricted Common Stock to be granted to each non-employee director then in office for their services rendered during 2015. Each recipient was allowed to take these shares as options to purchase shares of Common Stock equal to five times the number of shares of Restricted Common Stock that would have been awarded. Each recipient elected to take their award as Restricted Common Stock. On May 12, 2015, Mr. Zell received an award of 4,000 shares of Restricted Common Stock. Mr. Calian, Mr. Contis, Mr. Dobrowski, Mr. Heneghan, Ms. Rosenberg, Mr. Walker, Mr. Waterman and Mr. Young were each awarded shares valued at \$170,000. The number of shares of Restricted Common Stock awarded was determined by dividing \$170,000 by the closing price of the Company's Common Stock on the grant date or \$53.46. Each of these Directors were awarded 3,180 shares of Restricted Common Stock under this award. All shares were granted at a per share price

of \$53.46, the NYSE closing price of the Company's Common Stock on May 12, 2015. One-third of these shares of Restricted Common Stock vested on November 12, 2015, one-third will vest on May 12, 2016 and one-third will vest on May 12, 2017.

On November 3, 2015, upon recommendation of the Compensation Committee, the Board approved an award of Restricted Common Stock to be granted to Mr. Huang as a new Board member for his services rendered for the remainder of 2015. The number of shares of Restricted Common Stock awarded was determined by dividing \$170,000 by the closing price of the Company's Common Stock on the grant date of \$59.81 and pro-rated for his time served in 2015. Mr. Huang was allowed to take these shares as options to purchase shares of Common Stock equal to five times the number of shares of Restricted Common Stock that would have been awarded. Mr. Huang was awarded 473 shares of Restricted Common Stock under this award. Such shares were granted at a per share price of \$59.81, the NYSE closing price of the Company's Common Stock on November 3, 2015. One-third of these shares of Restricted Common Stock will vest on May 3, 2016, one-third will vest on November 3, 2016 and one-third will vest on November 3, 2017.

As of December 31, 2015, each non-employee director had the following unexercised stock options and unvested Restricted Stock awards outstanding:

| Name             | Number of Securities Underlying Unexercised Options (#) Exercisable | Number of Securities Underlying Unexercised Options (#) Unexercisable | Number of Shares of Stock That Have Not Vested |
|------------------|---|---|--|
| Philip Calian    | —   | —   | 7,032  |
| David Contis     | 5,600   | —   | 3,454  |
| Thomas Dobrowski | —   | —   | 3,454  |
| Thomas Heneghan  | —   | —   | 3,454  |
| Tao Huang        | —   | —   | 473  |
| Marguerite Nader | —   | —   | 1,334  |
| Sheli Rosenberg  | —   | —   | 8,366  |
| Howard Walker    | —   | —   | 7,032  |
| Gary Waterman    | —   | —   | 3,454  |
| William Young    | —   | —   | 3,454  |
| Samuel Zell      | 860,000   | —   | 44,002   |

During the year ended December 31, 2015, directors did not receive any perquisites or other compensation. The (3) Company reimburses the directors for travel expenses incurred in connection with their activities on behalf of the Company.

(4) Mr. Waterman will retire from the Company's Board of Directors effective May 10, 2016.

#### Vote Required

A plurality of the votes cast in person or by proxy at the Annual Meeting is required for the election of directors. Although we know of no reason why any nominee would not be able to serve, if any nominee should become unavailable for election, the persons named as proxies will vote your shares of Common Stock to approve the election of any substitute nominee proposed by the Board.

#### Board Recommendation

The Board unanimously recommends that you vote "FOR" each of the ten nominees for director to serve until the next annual meeting of stockholders and until his or her successor is duly elected and qualified.

PROPOSAL NO. 2

RATIFICATION OF THE SELECTION OF  
INDEPENDENT REGISTERED PUBLIC ACCOUNTING FIRM

The Board recommends that the stockholders ratify the selection of Ernst & Young as the Company's Independent Accountants for the fiscal year ending December 31, 2016. As a matter of good corporate governance, the selection of Ernst & Young is being submitted to stockholders for ratification. In the event of a negative vote on such ratification, the Audit Committee will reconsider its selection. Even if Ernst & Young is ratified as Independent Accountants by the stockholders, the Audit Committee, at its discretion, may direct the appointment of different Independent Accountants at any time during the year if it determines that such a change would be in the best interests of the Company and its stockholders.

Ernst & Young has advised us that neither it nor any member thereof has any financial interest, direct or indirect, in the Company or any of its subsidiaries in any capacity. There have been no disagreements between the Company and Ernst & Young relating to accounting procedures, financial statement disclosures or related items. Representatives of Ernst & Young are expected to be available at the Annual Meeting. These representatives will have an opportunity to make a statement if they so desire and will be available to respond to appropriate questions.

Audit and Non-Audit Fees

**Audit Fees.** The aggregate fees billed (or expected to be billed) for fiscal years 2015 and 2014 for professional services rendered by the Independent Accountants for the audit of the Company's financial statements, for the audit of internal controls relating to Section 404 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act, and for the reviews by the Independent Accountants of the financial statements included in the Company's Quarterly Reports on Form 10-Q were approximately \$1,068,700 and \$1,019,800, respectively.

**Audit-Related Fees.** The aggregate fees billed (or expected to be billed) for fiscal years 2015 and 2014 for assurance and related services by the Independent Accountants that are reasonably related to the performance of the audit or review of the Company's financial statements that are not reported as "Audit Fees" above were approximately \$43,800 and \$42,400, respectively. These fees consist primarily of fees for services provided to assist the Company with attestation services related to audits of subsidiaries and benefit plans and other accounting consultations.

**Tax Fees.** The aggregate fees billed (or expected to be billed) for fiscal years 2015 and 2014 for professional services rendered by the Independent Accountants for tax compliance, tax advice and tax planning were approximately \$111,000 and \$71,600, respectively.

**All Other Fees.** There were no other fees billed to the Company by the Independent Accountants in fiscal years 2015 and 2014.

**Auditor Independence.** The Audit Committee has determined that the Independent Accountants' provision of the non-audit services described above is compatible with maintaining the Independent Accountants' independence.

**Policy on Pre-Approval.** The Company and the Audit Committee are committed to ensuring the independence of the Company's Independent Accountants, both in fact and in appearance. In this regard, the Audit Committee has established a pre-approval policy in accordance with the applicable rules of the SEC and the NYSE. The Audit Committee must pre-approve all audit services and permissible non-audit services provided by the Company's Independent Accountants, except for any de minimis non-audit services. The Audit Committee may delegate to one or more of its members who is an independent director the authority to grant pre-approvals. All services provided by Ernst & Young in 2015 were pre-approved by the Audit Committee.

Vote Required

The affirmative vote of a majority of the votes cast by stockholders of record is necessary to ratify the selection of Ernst & Young.

Board Recommendation

The Board unanimously recommends that you vote "FOR" ratification of the selection of Ernst & Young as the Company's Independent Accountants for 2016.

## AUDIT COMMITTEE REPORT

The Audit Committee of the Board consists of Mr. Calian, Mr. Contis, Mr. Dobrowski and Mr. Young. The Board has determined that Mr. Calian, Mr. Contis, Mr. Dobrowski and Mr. Young each meet the independence and financial literacy requirements of the NYSE and Rule 10A-3 under the Exchange Act. In addition, the Board has determined that Mr. Calian, Mr. Contis, Mr. Dobrowski and Mr. Young each qualify as an "audit committee financial expert" as defined by the SEC rules. No member of the Audit Committee is a current or former officer or employee of the Company, and no member serves on more than two other public company audit committees.

The Audit Committee oversees the Company's financial reporting process on behalf of the Board. The Company's management has the primary responsibility for the financial statements, for maintaining effective internal control over financial reporting, and for assessing the effectiveness of internal control over financial reporting. The Audit Committee is governed by a written charter approved by the Board. In accordance with this charter, the Audit Committee oversees the accounting, auditing and financial reporting practices of the Company. The Audit Committee is responsible for the appointment, retention, compensation, and oversight of the work of the Independent Accountants. The Audit Committee pre-approves the services of the Independent Accountants in accordance with the applicable rules of the SEC and the NYSE. The Audit Committee has also established procedures for processing complaints received from employees regarding internal control, accounting, and auditing matters. The Audit Committee held ten meetings during 2015.

In fulfilling its oversight responsibilities, the Audit Committee reviewed and discussed the audited financial statements in the Company's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2015 (the "2015 Form 10-K") with the Company's management, including a discussion of the quality, not just the acceptability, of the accounting principles; the reasonableness of significant judgments; and the clarity of disclosures in the financial statements. The Audit Committee also reviewed and discussed management's report on its assessment of the effectiveness of the Company's internal control over financial reporting and the Independent Accountant's report on the Company's internal control over financial reporting with management, the internal auditors and the Independent Accountants.

The Audit Committee reviewed with the Independent Accountants, who are responsible for expressing an opinion on the conformity of those audited financial statements with generally accepted accounting principles, their judgments as to the quality, not just the acceptability, of the Company's accounting principles and such other matters as are required to be discussed with the Audit Committee by standards of the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board, rules of the SEC, and other applicable regulations. In addition, the Audit Committee has discussed with the Independent Accountants the Independent Accountant's independence from the Company's management and the Company, including the matters in the letter from the Independent Accountants required by the applicable requirements of the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board regarding the Independent Accountant's communications with the Audit Committee concerning independence, and considered the compatibility of non-audit services provided to the Company by the Independent Accountants with the Independent Accountant's independence.

The Audit Committee discussed with the Independent Accountants the overall scope and plans for their audit. The Audit Committee met with the Independent Accountants, with and without management present, to discuss the results of their examinations; their evaluation of the Company's internal controls, including internal control over financial reporting; and the overall quality of the Company's financial reporting.

In reliance on the reviews and discussions referred to above, the Audit Committee recommended to the Board, and the Board approved, that the audited financial statements and management's assessment of the effectiveness of the Company's internal control over financial reporting be included in the 2015 Form 10-K for filing with the SEC. The Audit Committee and the Board have recommended that stockholders ratify the selection of Ernst & Young as the Company's Independent Accountants for 2016.

Respectfully submitted,

Philip Calian, Chair

David Contis  
Thomas Dobrowski  
William Young

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## EXECUTIVE COMPENSATION

### COMPENSATION DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS

Executive Summary. The purpose of this Compensation Discussion and Analysis ("CD&A") is to provide stockholders with a description of the material elements of the Company's compensation program for the following individuals who were the Company's named executive officers (NEOs) as of December 31, 2015:

|                       |   |
|-----------------------|---|
| Marguerite Nader..... | President and Chief Executive Officer                           |
| Paul Seavey.....      | Executive Vice President, Chief Financial Officer and Treasurer |
| Patrick Waite.....    | Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer            |
| Roger Maynard.....    | Executive Vice President – Investments                          |

The Compensation Committee took into account the stockholder advisory vote approving executive compensation at the last Annual Meeting held in May 2015 and incorporated that as one of many factors it considered in connection with the discharge of its responsibilities. Among other considerations, due to the fact that 99% of all the votes cast at last year's annual meeting approved the compensation program described in the proxy statement for the 2015 Annual Meeting, the Compensation Committee did not make any substantive changes to the executive compensation program. The core principle of the Company's executive compensation program continues to be pay for performance, and the framework of the executive compensation program includes the governance features discussed below:

The Compensation Committee is comprised solely of independent directors.

The Compensation Committee's annual review and approval of the Company's compensation strategy includes a review of compensation-related risk management. In this regard, the Compensation Committee reviews the Company's executive compensation program, including base salary, non-equity incentive compensation ("bonus"), equity-based retention and incentive compensation, and personal benefits. The Compensation Committee does not believe that the compensation program creates risks that are reasonably likely to have a material adverse effect on the Company.

The NEOs have no employment agreements or severance agreements.

The NEOs are subject to share ownership guidelines as further described below.

The Company's hedging policy is included in the Company's Policy on Securities Trading and reads as follows:

"Directors and officers (and any member of the director's or officer's family sharing the same household) are prohibited from engaging in short sales (including buying puts or selling calls) or any other hedging transactions with respect to any equity securities of the Company held by them, which includes the purchase of any financial instrument (including prepaid variable forward contracts, equity swaps, collars, and exchange funds) designed to hedge or offset any decrease in the market value of such equity securities."

The executive officers must follow the requirements of the Company's Business Ethics and Conduct Policy.

The Compensation Committee takes into consideration the overall performance of the Company when establishing the compensation program and determining final payments to the NEOs. This review of overall Company performance is in addition to specific goals and targets that are set for each NEO. The following tables show the Company's historical stock price, annual dividends, and Normalized Funds From Operations ("Normalized FFO"). Normalized FFO is a non-GAAP financial measure. The Company believes that Normalized FFO is generally an appropriate measure of performance of an equity REIT. Appendix A to this proxy statement includes the definition of Normalized FFO and a reconciliation of Normalized FFO to net income, the most comparable GAAP measure.

On July 15, 2013, we effected a two-for-one stock split of our Common Stock (see Note 3 in the Notes to the Consolidated Financial Statements contained in our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2015). All Common Stock and per share data in this CD&A for periods prior to this date have been adjusted retroactively to reflect the stock split.

Note: This chart shows the ELS stock price from January 2013 through January 2016.

Note: This chart shows the Company's annual dividend per share growth over the last five years.

Note: This chart shows the Company's annual Normalized FFO growth over the last five years.

General Philosophy. The Compensation Committee determines and approves the compensation of the Company's NEOs and guides the Company's overall philosophy towards the compensation of its employees. The Compensation Committee believes that the compensation of the Company's NEOs should be both competitive and based on individual and Company performance. The Compensation Committee believes that the compensation of the NEOs should reflect their success as a management team in attaining certain operational goals, which leads to the success of the Company and serves the best interests of its stockholders. The Compensation Committee consults with executive management regarding both executive and non-executive employee compensation plans and programs, including administering the Company's equity incentive plan. In 2014, the Compensation Committee retained FPL Associates LP as its independent outside consulting firm to provide the Compensation Committee with relevant data concerning the marketplace, the peer group, and an independent analysis and recommendation concerning executive compensation and non-executive compensation. The analysis was used in establishing executive compensation for 2014 and 2015. The Compensation Committee has the authority to re-engage FPL Associates LP as its independent outside compensation consultant or hire additional consultants at any time. FPL Associates LP did not provide any additional services to the Compensation Committee and did not provide any services to the Company other than those it provides to the Compensation Committee. The sole role of FPL Associates LP was as an independent consulting firm to advise the Compensation Committee with respect to compensation. The ultimate determination of total compensation and the elements that comprise total compensation is made solely by our Compensation Committee. Objectives of the Compensation Program. The primary objective of the Company's compensation program is to attract and retain highly qualified executives by providing competitive base salaries and meaningful cash bonus and equity-based incentives. In addition, the compensation program is structured to hold the NEOs accountable for the performance of the Company by tying a portion of their annual non-equity incentive compensation to performance targets. The compensation program is also designed to promote an ownership mentality among executives. The Compensation Committee recognizes that the interests of stockholders are best served by giving our NEOs the opportunity to participate in the appreciation of the Company's Common Stock. In October 2005, the Board established stock ownership guidelines for each of the executive officer positions and directors. Under these guidelines, all of the executive officers and directors are required to own a minimum amount of the Company's Common Stock within four years from their first appointment as an executive officer or director, valued at the time of purchase, and to maintain this minimum amount throughout their tenure as an executive officer or member of the Board. Such ownership guidelines are as follows: five times the base salary for the CEO; three times the base salary for each of the other executive officers;

and three times the annual retainer for each Board member. In March 2013, the Board approved a revision to the established stock ownership guidelines to exclude from the computation any stock pledged or hedged by a director or executive officer. Each of the NEOs and Board members currently own shares of Common Stock that exceed the minimum established guidelines.

The following table shows the value of shares of Common Stock and Preferred Stock of the Company, including shares upon exercise of options, beneficially owned as of the Record Date by each of the NEOs as of December 31, 2015 as a multiple of their 2015 base salary.

| Name                              | Shares of Common Stock (1) | Shares of Common Stock Upon Exercise of Options (2) | Depository Shares (3) | Total Shares of Common Stock and Depository Shares | Value of Shares Owned (\$) | Base Salary (\$) | Stock Ownership Value/Base Salary (5) |
|-----------------------------------|----------------------------|---|-----------------------|--|----------------------------|------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Marguerite Nader                  | 89,037                     | 0   | 16,000                | 105,037  | 6,336,097                  | 385,000          | 16x                                   |
| Paul Seavey                       | 46,503                     | 0   | 1,500                 | 48,003   | 3,137,855                  | 350,000          | 9x                                    |
| Patrick Waite                     | 62,606                     | 0   | 0                     | 62,606   | 4,173,942                  | 350,000          | 12x                                   |
| Roger Maynard                     | 170,379                    | 0   | 8,000                 | 178,379  | 11,559,168                 | 350,000          | 33x                                   |
| All executive officers as a group | 368,525                    | 0   | 25,500                | 394,025  | 25,207,062                 | 1,435,000        | 18x                                   |

(1) Shares of Common Stock beneficially owned as of the Record Date.

(2) The amounts shown in this column reflect shares of Common Stock, subject to options, which are currently exercisable or exercisable within 60 days of the Record Date.

(3) Each depository share represents 1/100th of a share of the Company's 6.75% Series C Cumulative Redeemable Perpetual Preferred Stock beneficially owned as of the Record Date. These shares do not have voting rights.

(4) The value of the total shares beneficially owned as of the Record Date using the Company's Common Stock closing stock price of \$66.67 on December 31, 2015 and the liquidation value of \$25.00 for the depository shares.

(5) The value of total shares beneficially owned as of the Record Date as compared to the executive officer's 2015 base salary.

What Our Compensation Program is Designed to Reward. Our compensation program is designed to reward the NEOs for their contributions to the Company and for achieving improvements in the Company's performance during the year. The Compensation Committee deliberately kept base salaries at a relatively small percentage of total compensation. This allows the Compensation Committee to reward each NEO's performance through annual cash bonus awards and incentives such as Restricted Common Stock Awards. The annual non-equity incentive bonus plan for each NEO is established by the Compensation Committee after a review of goal recommendations from the CEO, who receives input on such goal recommendations from each NEO. Restricted Common Stock Awards are designed to provide incentives to the executives to ensure the successful implementation of long-term strategic goals of the Company and to provide for the retention of such executives.

Elements of Compensation. During the year ended December 31, 2015, there were three major components of executive compensation: base salary, non-equity incentive compensation ("bonus"), and equity-based retention and incentive compensation. In conjunction with the CEO, the Compensation Committee reviews our executive salary structure on an annual basis with the use of a tally sheet. The tally sheet summarizes total compensation for each NEO, including base pay, stock and option award values, non-equity incentive plan compensation, and all other compensation for the current and prior years. The tally sheet allows the Compensation Committee to quantify each NEO's total compensation for use in comparison to the salaries of executives at other REITs as obtained from the SNL Financial database ([www.snl.com](http://www.snl.com)).

The compensation policy takes into account a review of executive compensation and performance data on publicly traded REITs obtained from the SNL Financial database. The Compensation Committee believes the executive compensation information derived from the SNL Financial database for the selected peer group of REITs provides



comparable salary data for the Company. The compensation program is based on a review of the median and average total compensation for each NEO position and allows each NEO to attain compensation in alignment with the average and median compensation of the peer group, and based on the Company's performance. This is achieved through the issuance of Restricted Common Stock Awards. Where salary information is unavailable for a particular position in the SNL Financial database, other positions having similar responsibilities are used. Salary increases are based upon overall Company performance and upon each NEO's performance, established goals, and contribution to the Company's performance.

In addition, in January 2014, FPL Associates L.P. prepared an Executive Compensation Benchmarking Analysis, which was provided to the Compensation Committee for their use in assessing the executive compensation program and related peer group. As a result of this analysis, the Compensation Committee adjusted the peer group for 2014 to include twenty peer companies. The same peer group remained in 2015 and consists of nineteen peer companies as the result of a merger of two of the peer companies. The nineteen companies that comprise the peer group are shown in the following table. When selecting and re-assessing this peer group, the Compensation Committee took into consideration factors including market capitalization, three-year and five-year total returns, dividend yields, compounded annual funds from operations growth rates, and multiples. As of December 31, 2015, the Company's one-year, three-year and five-year total shareholder return were 33%, 115% and 172%, respectively. As of December 31, 2015, the one-year, and annualized three-year and five-year total shareholder return for the Company were 33%, 29%, and 22%,

respectively, as compared to the median total shareholder return for the peer group of 10%, 15%, and 13%, respectively, and the average total shareholder return for the peer group of 12%, 14% and 14%, respectively.

PEER GROUP

|   |                                    |
|---|------------------------------------|
| Apartment Investment and Management Company (AIV) | First Industrial Realty Trust (FR) |
| American Campus Communities, Inc. (ACC)           | Highwoods Properties, Inc. (HIW)   |
| Camden Property Trust (CPT)                       | Liberty Property Trust (LPT)       |
| CubeSmart (CUBE)                                  | Mack-Cali Realty Corporation (CLI) |
| Corporate Office Properties Trust (OFC)           | Post Properties, Inc. (PPS)        |
| Duke Realty Corporation (DRE)                     | Regency Centers Corporation (REG)  |
| Equity One (EQY)                                  | Simon Property Group (SPG)         |
| Equity Residential (EQR)                          | UDR, Inc. (UDR)                    |
| Essex Property Trust, Inc. (ESS)                  | Vornado Realty Trust (VNO)         |
| Extra Space Storage, Inc. (EXR)                   |                                    |

Total compensation for the NEOs as set forth in the Summary Compensation Table was approximately \$8.0 million and \$7.0 million for 2015 and 2014, respectively. Total compensation for 2015 was split between base salary, non-equity incentive compensation, equity-based retention and incentive compensation and other compensation, as shown in the following chart. The total median compensation for the top five executives for the selected peer group for 2014, based on the latest reportable data in the SNL Financial database, was approximately \$9.0 million and the average was approximately \$12.3 million. The increase in total executive compensation from 2014 to 2015 for the NEOs in the aggregate reflects an increase in our stock price on the restricted stock grant dates, in addition to an increase in base salaries.

**Base Salary.** The Compensation Committee deliberately keeps base salaries at a relatively small percentage of total compensation. For 2015, the Compensation Committee concluded that base salaries of \$385,000 for Ms. Nader and \$350,000 for each of Mr. Seavey, Mr. Waite and Mr. Maynard were appropriate in this regard.

**Non-Equity Incentive Compensation.** The Compensation Committee's practice is to award annual non-equity incentive compensation ("bonus") based on certain performance targets established by the Compensation Committee for each year after consultation with the CEO and executive officers, but subject to the discretion of the Compensation Committee. The Compensation Committee selected the performance targets, as they believe management should focus on short-term annual performance metrics that support and ensure the Company's long-term success and profitability. Performance targets were established and communicated to the NEOs in February 2015 when the outcome of the performance targets was substantially uncertain. Performance targets were consistent with earnings guidance expectations publicly disclosed by the Company. The final payout of 2015 executive bonuses was in January 2016, after finalization of the Company's year-end earnings results.

The total 2015 maximum bonus potential for the NEOs set by the Compensation Committee in February 2015 was approximately \$2,485,700 and was comprised of a \$2,345,000 bonus potential ("2015 Bonus Potential") and a \$70,350 MH revenue stretch goal and a \$70,350 resort revenue stretch goal ("2015 Stretch Goals"). The following table shows the 2015 Bonus Potential for each NEO and the percentage attributed to each performance target and the discretionary portion. In addition, the 2015 Stretch Goals required certain increases in the Company's core MH revenues and core resort revenues, which targets were met and the total paid to all NEOs for these targets was approximately \$140,700.

| Name             | 2015 Bonus Potential (Amount x Base Salary) | Core MH Revenue Target (1) | Core Resort Revenue Target (2) | Dues Target (3) | Core Net Operating Income Target (4) | Rentals/Working Capital Target (5) | Discretionary(6) |
|------------------|---|----------------------------|--------------------------------|-----------------|--------------------------------------|------------------------------------|------------------|
| Marguerite Nader | 2.00  | 15.0%                      | 15.0%                          | 15.0%           | 15.0%                                | 15.0%                              | 25.0%            |
| Paul Seavey      | 1.5   | 15.0%                      | 15.0%                          | 15.0%           | 15.0%                                | 15.0%                              | 25.0%            |
| Patrick Waite    | 1.5   | 15.0%                      | 15.0%                          | 15.0%           | 15.0%                                | 15.0%                              | 25.0%            |
| Roger Maynard    | 1.5   | 15.0%                      | 15.0%                          | 15.0%           | 15.0%                                | 15.0%                              | 25.0%            |

This target required achieving a 2.8% increase in core manufactured home ("MH") base rent growth with flat (1) occupancy for the year ending December 31, 2015 as compared to the year ending December 31, 2014, which target was met. The total paid for this target was approximately \$351,750.

This target required that the Company's core resort revenues increase 5.0% for the year ending December 31, 2015 (2) as compared to December 31, 2014, which target was met. The total paid to the NEOs for this target was approximately \$351,750.

This target was comprised of three equal components related to: (i) dues revenues, (ii) the number of paid member (3) sales units; and (iii) dues attrition, all of which were met. The total paid to the NEOs for this target was approximately \$351,750.

This target required core net operating income, excluding property management expense, to increase 4.4% for the (4) year ending December 31, 2015 as compared to the year ending December 31, 2014, which target was met. The total paid to the NEOs for this target was approximately \$351,750.

This target was comprised of four equal components related to: (i) reduction of working capital commitment, which portion of the target was not met; (ii) an increase in occupancy from homeowners in 2015, which portion of (5) the target was met; (iii) reduction of rental expenses, which portion of the target was not met; and (iv) management of chattel financing, which portion of the target was met. As a result, the NEOs were paid 50% of this target or approximately \$175,875.

At the beginning of 2015, the Compensation Committee in consultation with Ms. Nader, developed strategic initiatives upon which each executive officer would be evaluated and which would be used in determining their discretionary bonuses. Committees were formed to address key strategic areas for the Company including, but not limited to revenue management, lead generation and lead management, the MH sales platform, Thousand Trails (6) site utilization, expense control, home inventory spend, infrastructure maintenance, portfolio assessment, technology, customer relations, employee relations, and legal. Throughout 2015, each NEO met with Ms. Nader to discuss achievement of these discretionary goals. The Compensation Committee reviewed these evaluations and considered the results of these evaluations in the overall assessment of each NEO's performance. As a result, Mr. Seavey, Mr. Waite and Mr. Maynard each received 100% of the discretionary bonus potential for 2015.

The Compensation Committee's evaluation of Ms. Nader's achievements included a review of the Company's overall performance, as well as the attainment of the strategic initiative goals by each of the other executive officers. Ms. Nader received 100% of her discretionary bonus potential for 2015.

The total paid to all executive officers for discretionary targets was approximately \$586,250.

Equity-Based Retention and Incentive Compensation. The Company has made Restricted Common Stock grants to provide long-term incentives for executive officers and to retain qualified officers. The Company recognizes that the interests of stockholders are best served by giving our executives the opportunity to participate in the appreciation of the Company's Common Stock.

On May 13, 2014, our Stockholders approved the Company's 2014 Equity Incentive Plan. The Company granted Restricted Common Stock to our NEOs in accordance with the 2014 Equity Incentive Plan since its approval.

The Restricted Common Stock grants were awarded at the closing price of the Company's Common Stock on the NYSE on the date of grant. The Company has never granted options with an exercise price that is less than the closing price of the Company's Common Stock on the NYSE on the grant date, nor have options been granted on a date other than the grant date. Upon vesting of these stock awards, the Company may buy back a portion of the stock to provide the executive officer with the ability to receive the vested stock net of applicable tax effects.

On January 22, 2015, the Compensation Committee approved the 2015 Restricted Stock Award (the "2015 Award") pursuant to the authority set forth in the 2014 Equity Incentive Plan. On January 26, 2015, the Board ratified the Compensation Committee's approval of the 2015 Award. On February 2, 2015, the NEOs were granted 76,000 shares of Restricted Common Stock in accordance with the 2015 Award with a grant date fair value of \$54.93 as follows: Ms. Nader was granted 22,000 shares; Mr. Seavey was granted 18,000 shares; Mr. Waite was granted 18,000 shares; and Mr. Maynard was granted 18,000 shares. Such shares vested on December 31, 2015. Ms. Nader, Mr. Seavey and Mr. Maynard's 2015 Restricted Stock Awards decreased from 2014, and Mr. Waite's 2015 Restricted Stock Awards increased as a result of his promotion to Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer.

CEO Compensation. Ms. Nader's 2015 compensation consisted of a base salary of \$385,000 and an annual non-equity incentive compensation ("bonus") award of \$758,450. During the year ended December 31, 2015, Ms. Nader acquired 24,667 shares of Restricted Common Stock upon vesting with a value of approximately \$1,611,000. The Compensation Committee established Ms. Nader's compensation based on the principles previously discussed in this CD&A. Ms. Nader received no compensation or stock grants for her service on the Board.

Accounting and Tax Considerations. The Company accounts for its stock options and stock awards in accordance with FASB ASC 718.

The Company may or may not structure compensation arrangements to satisfy the requirements for performance-based compensation under Section 162(m) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended.

Severance Benefits. None of the Company's NEOs have any arrangements that provide for payment of severance benefits.

Non-Qualified Deferred Compensation. The Company does not provide any non-qualified defined contribution or other deferred compensation plans.

Post-Employment Compensation. All of the Company's employees, including its NEOs, are employees-at-will and as such do not have employment contracts with the Company. The Company also does not provide post-employment health coverage or other benefits.

Change in Control. None of the Company's NEOs are entitled to payment of any benefits upon a change in control of the Company. The vesting of Restricted Common Stock grants is subject to acceleration in the case of death, disability and involuntary termination not for cause or change of control of the Company. As of December 31, 2015, there were no unexercised non-vested restricted stock awards for any of the NEOs, except as follows:

| Name             | Number of Shares of Restricted Stock That Have Not Vested as of December 31, 2015 (#) | Market Value of Shares of Restricted Stock That Have Not Vested as of December 31, 2015 (\$) |
|------------------|---|--|
| Marguerite Nader | 1,334   | 88,938   |

Perquisites and Other Benefits. The Company's NEOs do not receive benefits that are not otherwise available to all of its employees. All employees who participated in the 401(k) plan received a matching contribution equal to 100% of the first 3%, and 50% of the next 2%, of the participant's eligible earnings that were contributed to the plan, up to a maximum matching contribution of \$10,400. Additionally, a discretionary profit sharing component of the 401(k) plan provides for a contribution to be made annually for each participant in an amount, if any, as determined by the Company. The Company has provided each of the NEOs with an indemnification agreement, however, the Company has paid no amounts under such agreements.

The Company has a non-qualified Employee Stock Purchase Plan ("ESPP") in which certain employees and the directors may participate. Participants may acquire up to \$250,000 of Common Stock annually through the ESPP at a 15% discount. Discounts on such stock purchases are not considered a perquisite and are not included in the Summary Compensation Table as such discount is available to all salaried employees who elect to participate in the ESPP.

2016 Changes to Executive Compensation. On February 12, 2016, the Compensation Committee approved the 2016 Executive Bonus Plan (the "Plan"). Information regarding the 2016 Executive Bonus Plan was filed on Form 8-K with the SEC on February 16, 2016. Under the Plan, the annual bonus potential was established based on certain performance targets. The total bonus potential under the Plan for each eligible executive follows:

| Name             | Title   | Bonus Potential       |
|------------------|---|-----------------------|
| Marguerite Nader | President and Chief Executive Officer                           | 200% of annual salary |
| Paul Seavey      | Executive Vice President, Chief Financial Officer and Treasurer | 150% of annual salary |
| Patrick Waite    | Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer            | 150% of annual salary |
| Roger Maynard    | Executive Vice President - Investments                          | 150% of annual salary |

Under the Plan, payment of 75% of the bonus potential is contingent upon achieving certain operational targets, including goals related to core community base rental income, core resort base rental income, membership dues

revenues, core net operating income, and working capital. The Compensation Committee will have discretion at the end of 2016 to determine an appropriate award based on an evaluation of each of the target areas. Payment of the remaining 25% of the bonus potential is based on an assessment of discretionary objectives for the executive officer team, as a whole. In addition, if the Company exceeds by specified

amounts certain operational targets relating to core community base rental income and core resort base rental income, the total bonus potential may be increased by up to an additional \$145,200, which would be shared pro-rata by the NEOs. Bonus payments will be made in cash and will be paid subsequent to the year ending December 31, 2016 after finalization of the Company's results of operations and upon review and approval by the Compensation Committee. On January 21, 2016, the Compensation Committee approved the 2016 Restricted Stock Award (the "2016 Award") pursuant to the authority set forth in the 2014 Equity Incentive Plan. On February 1, 2016, the NEOs were granted 68,000 shares of Restricted Common Stock in accordance with the 2016 Award with a grant date fair value of \$67.42 as follows: Ms. Nader was granted 22,000 shares; Mr. Seavey was granted 18,000 shares; Mr. Waite was granted 18,000 shares; and Mr. Maynard was granted 10,000 shares. Such shares will fully vest on December 31, 2016.

#### COMPENSATION COMMITTEE REPORT

The Compensation Committee has reviewed and discussed the foregoing Compensation Discussion and Analysis with management. Based on our review and discussion with management, we have recommended to the Board that the Compensation Discussion and Analysis be included in this Proxy Statement on Schedule 14A and in the Company's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2015.

Respectfully submitted,

Sheli Rosenberg, Chair  
David Contis  
Gary Waterman

## SUMMARY COMPENSATION TABLE

The following table includes information concerning compensation paid to or earned for the year ended December 31, 2015 by the Company's Chief Executive Officer, Chief Financial Officer, and those other persons who were, at December 31, 2015, executive officers of the Company (the "NEOs").

The Company has not entered into any employment agreements with any of the NEOs. When setting total compensation for each of the NEOs, the Compensation Committee reviews all components of compensation, including equity and non-equity based compensation.

The NEOs were not entitled to receive payments, which are characterized as "Bonus" payments for the years ended December 31, 2015, 2014 and 2013. In January 2014, 2015 and 2016, the Compensation Committee approved the final short-term incentive plan payments for each NEO, with such payments being based on pre-established performance targets. Such annual performance-based payments are characterized as "Non-Equity Incentive Plan Compensation" in the table. Total compensation amounts include the fair value of the stock awards and option awards granted to the NEOs, with such grants being shown in the table in the year of grant. The number of shares shown in the following tables have been adjusted for our 2-for-1 stock split that was effected by and in the form of a stock dividend in July 2013.

For the years ended December 31, 2015, 2014 and 2013, "Salary" accounted for approximately 18%, 19% and 23%, respectively, of total compensation; "Stock Awards" accounted for approximately 52%, 53% and 45%, respectively, of total compensation; and "Non-Equity Incentive Plan Compensation" accounted for approximately 29%, 27% and 31%, respectively, of total compensation.

| Name and Principal Position (1)  | Year | Salary (\$) | Bonus (\$) <sup>(2)</sup> | Stock Awards (\$) <sup>(3)</sup> | Option Awards (\$) <sup>(4)</sup> | Non-Equity Incentive Plan Compensation |                          | All Other Compensation (\$) <sup>(7)</sup> | Total (\$) |
|--|------|-------------|---------------------------|----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|--|--------------------------|--|------------|
|  |      |             |                           |                                  |                                   | STIP (\$) <sup>(5)</sup>               | LTIP (\$) <sup>(6)</sup> |  |            |
| Marguerite Nader<br>President and<br>Chief Executive Officer                         | 2015 | 385,000     | —                         | 1,208,460                        | —                                 | 758,450                                | —                        | 10,400                                     | 2,362,310  |
|  | 2014 | 375,000     | —                         | 1,193,080                        | —                                 | 585,030                                | —                        | 10,400                                     | 2,163,510  |
|  | 2013 | 375,000     | —                         | 1,031,500                        | —                                 | 557,813                                | —                        | 10,200                                     | 1,974,513  |
| Paul Seavey<br>Executive Vice President,<br>Chief Financial Officer and<br>Treasurer | 2015 | 350,000     | —                         | 988,740                          | —                                 | 517,125                                | —                        | 10,400                                     | 1,866,265  |
|  | 2014 | 311,428     | —                         | 852,200                          | —                                 | 416,445                                | —                        | 10,400                                     | 1,590,473  |
|  | 2013 | 311,428     | —                         | 576,240                          | —                                 | 397,071                                | —                        | 10,200                                     | 1,294,939  |
| Patrick Waite<br>Executive Vice President<br>and<br>Chief Operating Officer          | 2015 | 350,000     | —                         | 988,740                          | —                                 | 517,125                                | —                        | 10,400                                     | 1,866,265  |
|  | 2014 | 350,000     | —                         | 681,760                          | —                                 | 468,024                                | —                        | 10,400                                     | 1,510,184  |
|  | 2013 | 350,000     | —                         | 216,090                          | —                                 | 446,250                                | —                        | 10,200                                     | 1,022,540  |
| Roger Maynard<br>Executive Vice President -<br>Investments                           | 2015 | 350,000     | —                         | 988,740                          | —                                 | 517,125                                | —                        | 10,400                                     | 1,866,265  |
|  | 2014 | 311,428     | —                         | 965,798                          | —                                 | 416,445                                | —                        | 10,400                                     | 1,704,071  |
|  | 2013 | 311,428     | —                         | 816,316                          | —                                 | 397,071                                | —                        | 10,200                                     | 1,535,015  |

(1) Principal positions are as of the date of this Proxy Statement.

(2) Bonus payments were based on certain performance criteria being met and as such are included under the Non-Equity Incentive Plan Compensation column of this table.

(3) These amounts reflect the grant-date fair value of restricted stock awards, calculated in accordance with FASB ASC 718 based on the Company's closing stock price on the grant date.

On January 24, 2013, the Compensation Committee approved the issuance of 68,666 shares of Restricted Common Stock to the NEOs, which were granted on February 1, 2013 with a grant date fair value of \$36.015 as follows: Ms.



Nader was granted 24,000 shares; Mr. Seavey was granted 16,000 shares; Mr. Waite was granted 6,000 shares; and Mr. Maynard was granted 22,666 shares. Such shares vested on December 31, 2013.

On May 8, 2013, Ms. Nader was granted 4,000 shares of Restricted Common Stock with a grant date fair value of \$41.785 for her service as a director during 2013. One-third of these shares vested on the date six months after the grant date; one-third vested on the first anniversary of the grant date; and the remainder vested on the second anniversary of the grant date.

On May 13, 2014, the Compensation Committee approved the 2014 Award pursuant to the authority set forth in the 2014 Equity Incentive Plan. On May 13, 2014, the Board ratified the Compensation Committee's approval of the 2014 Award. On May 13, 2014, the NEOs were granted 82,666 shares of Restricted Common Stock in accordance with the 2014 Award with a grant date fair value of \$42.61 as follows: Ms. Nader was granted 24,000 shares; Mr. Seavey was granted 20,000 shares; Mr. Waite was granted 16,000 shares; and Mr. Maynard was granted 22,666 shares. Such shares vested on December 31, 2014.

On May 13, 2014 upon recommendation of the Compensation Committee, the Board approved an award of stock options to be granted to each director then in office for their services rendered during the remainder of 2014. On May 13, 2014, Ms. Nader was awarded options to purchase 20,000 shares of Common Stock, which she elected to receive as 4,000 shares of Restricted Common Stock. Such shares were issued at a per share price of \$42.61, the NYSE closing price of the Company's Common Stock on May 13, 2014. One-third of these shares of Restricted Common Stock vested on November 13, 2014, one-third vested on May 13, 2015 and one-third will vest on May 13, 2016. On January 22, 2015, the Compensation Committee approved the 2015 Award pursuant to the authority set forth in the 2014 Equity Incentive Plan. On January 26, 2015, the Board ratified the Compensation Committee's approval of the 2015 Award. On February 2, 2015, the NEOs were granted 76,000 shares of Restricted Common Stock in accordance with the 2015 Award with a grant date fair value of \$54.93 as follows: Ms. Nader was granted 22,000 shares; Mr. Seavey was granted 18,000 shares; Mr. Waite was granted 18,000 shares and Mr. Maynard was granted 18,000 shares. Such shares vested on December 31, 2015.

All holders of Restricted Common Stock receive any dividends paid on such shares.

(4) There were no stock option awards issued to the NEOs during 2013, 2014 and 2015.

(5) The NEOs' annual short-term incentive plan "bonus" payment is based on pre-established performance targets as communicated to the NEOs at the beginning of the year, and therefore, such amounts are classified as non-equity incentive plan compensation in this table.

In February 2015, February 2014, and February 2013, the Compensation Committee approved the 2015, 2014 and 2013 bonus potential and performance targets, respectively. In January 2016, 2015 and 2014, after assessment of the achievement of such performance targets, the Compensation Committee approved and the NEOs received their annual non-equity incentive awards for each of the years ended December 31, 2015, 2014 and 2013, respectively. See the CD&A section of this Proxy Statement for further discussion of the 2015 performance targets.

On February 12, 2016, the Compensation Committee approved the 2016 Executive Bonus Plan. Information regarding the 2016 Executive Bonus Plan is included in the CD&A section of this Proxy Statement and was filed on Form 8-K with the SEC on February 16, 2016.

(6) There were no long-term non-equity incentive plan compensation awards granted to the NEOs in 2013, 2014, or 2015.

(7) Includes employer-matching contributions pursuant to the Equity LifeStyle Properties, Inc. Retirement Savings Plan of \$10,400, \$10,400, and \$10,200 for the years ended December 31, 2015, 2014 and 2013, respectively.

#### GRANTS OF PLAN-BASED AWARDS

The following table sets forth certain information with respect to options and Restricted Common Stock granted to the Company's NEOs for the year ended December 31, 2015.

| Name             | Grant Date              | Estimated Future Payouts               |                |             | All Other Stock Awards: Number of Shares of Stock or Units (#) <sup>(2)</sup> | All Other Option Awards; Number of Securities Underlying Options (#) | Exercise or Base Price of Option Awards (\$/sh) | Grant Date Fair Value of Stock and Option Awards (\$) <sup>(3)</sup> |
|------------------|-------------------------|--|----------------|-------------|---|--|---|--|
|                  |                         | Under Non-Equity Incentive Plan Awards | Threshold (\$) | Target (\$) |   |  |   |  |
| Marguerite Nader | 02/13/15 <sup>(1)</sup> | —                                      | 623,700        | 816,200     | 0   | —  | —   |  |
|                  | 02/02/15                | —                                      | —              | —           | 22,000  | —  | 1,208,460                                       |  |
| Paul Seavey      | 02/13/15 <sup>(1)</sup> | —                                      | 425,250        | 556,500     | 0   | —  | —   |  |
|                  | 02/02/15                | —                                      | —              | —           | 18,000  | —  | 988,740   |  |

|               |                         |   |         |         |        |   |   |         |
|---------------|-------------------------|---|---------|---------|--------|---|---|---------|
| Patrick Waite | 02/13/15 <sup>(1)</sup> | — | 425,250 | 556,500 | 0      | — | — | —       |
|               | 02/02/15                | — | —       | —       | 18,000 | — | — | 988,750 |
| Roger Maynard | 02/13/15 <sup>(1)</sup> | — | 425,250 | 556,500 | 0      | — | — | —       |
|               | 02/02/15                | — | —       | —       | 18,000 | — | — | 988,740 |

Payment of the 2015 award was based on the following performance targets being achieved: 15.0% related to achieving a benchmark in core MH revenues; 15.0% related to achieving a benchmark in core resort revenues; 15.0% related to achieving a benchmark in membership dues revenues; 15.0% related to achieving a benchmark in core net operating income; 15.0% related to achieving a working capital benchmark and 25.0% was at the discretion of the Compensation Committee after evaluation of each NEO's performance, including an analysis of successes and strategic initiatives during the year. In addition, each NEO was awarded an additional amount upon achievement of the 2015 Stretch Goals. The 2015 maximum amounts represent the total potential bonus award. The 2015 target amounts reflect the non-discretionary portion of the total potential bonus award. Payment of the 2015 award was made in January 2016.

(2) These amounts reflect the number of shares of Restricted Common Stock granted to each NEO.

(3) This amount reflects the grant-date fair value of restricted stock awards calculated in accordance with FASB ASC 718 based on the Company's closing stock price on the grant date.

## OUTSTANDING EQUITY AWARDS AT FISCAL YEAR END

The following table includes certain information with respect to the value of all unexercised stock options and non-vested restricted stock awards previously awarded to the NEOs as of December 31, 2015.

| Name             | Option Awards   |   |                       | Stock Awards <sup>(1)</sup> |   |  |
|------------------|---|---|-----------------------|-----------------------------|---|--|
|                  | Number of Securities Underlying Unexercised Options (#) Exercisable | Number of Securities Underlying Unexercised Options (#) Unexercisable | Option Exercise Price | Option Expiration Date      | Number of Shares or Units of Stock That Have Not Vested (#) | Market Value of Shares or Units of Stock That Have Not Vested (\$) |
| Marguerite Nader | —   | —   | —                     | —                           | 1,334   | 88,938   |

On May 13, 2014, Ms. Nader was granted 4,000 shares of Restricted Common Stock for her service as a director during 2014. One-third of these shares vested on the date six months after the grant date; one-third vested on the first anniversary of the grant date; and the remainder vest on the second anniversary of the grant date. Upon vesting (1) of these stock awards, the Company may buy back a portion of the stock to provide the executive officer with the ability to receive the vested stock net of applicable tax effects. The market value of Stock Awards that had not vested as of December 31, 2015 was based on a closing price of the Company's Common Stock on December 31, 2015 of \$66.67.

## OPTION EXERCISES AND STOCK VESTED

The following table includes certain information with respect to the option exercises and stock vested for each of the NEOs for the year ended December 31, 2015.

| Name             | Option Awards                             |                                 | Stock Awards  |                                |
|------------------|---|---------------------------------|---|--------------------------------|
|                  | Number of Shares Acquired on Exercise (#) | Value Realized on Exercise (\$) | Number of Shares Acquired on Vesting (#) <sup>(1)</sup> | Value Realized on Vesting (\$) |
| Marguerite Nader | —   | —                               | 24,667  | 1,610,758                      |
| Paul Seavey      | —   | —                               | 18,000  | 1,201,140                      |
| Patrick Waite    | —   | —                               | 18,000  | 1,201,140                      |
| Roger Maynard    | —   | —                               | 18,000  | 1,201,140                      |

(1) Upon vesting of these stock awards, the Company purchased 19,201, 8,523, 8,298, and 9,423 shares from Ms. Nader, Mr. Seavey, Mr. Waite and Mr. Maynard, respectively, to pay their respective withholding taxes.

## POTENTIAL PAYMENTS UPON TERMINATION OF EMPLOYMENT OR CHANGE IN CONTROL

None of our NEOs is entitled to payment of any benefits upon a change in control of the Company. The vesting of Restricted Common Stock grants is subject to acceleration in the case of death, disability and involuntary termination not for cause or change of control of the Company. As of December 31, 2015, there were no unexercised non-vested restricted stock awards for any of the named executive officers, except as follows:

| Name             | Number of Shares of Restricted Stock That Have Not Vested as of December 31, 2015 (#) | Market Value of Shares of Restricted Stock That Have Not Vested as of December 31, 2015 (\$) |
|------------------|---|--|
| Marguerite Nader | 1,334   | 88,938   |



#### NARRATIVE DISCLOSURE OF THE COMPANY'S COMPENSATION POLICIES AND PRACTICES AS THEY RELATE TO RISK MANAGEMENT

The Compensation Committee has reviewed the Company's compensation policies and practices and believes it has taken reasonable and appropriate actions to mitigate the risk that the Company's compensation policies and practices would lead to conduct that would have an unintended material adverse effect on the Company. The assessment included a review of the components of the executive officer's compensation. For the base salary component, the Compensation Committee believes the following mitigates the incentive for risky behavior: (i) base salary is a relatively small portion of total compensation for the executive officers, and (ii) the executive officers and employees have signed the Company's Employee Handbook and Business and Ethics Policy agreeing to maintain the highest standards of personal and professional integrity at all times and to comply with the Company's policies and procedures. For the non-equity incentive (bonus) component, the Compensation Committee believes the following mitigates the incentive for risky behavior: (i) the bonus targets are tied to near-term operational targets which lead to long-term growth of the Company and increased stockholder value and are not generally susceptible to accounting risk; and (ii) a portion of the bonus is payable at the discretion of the Compensation Committee. For the equity-based incentive component, the Compensation Committee believes the following mitigates the incentive for risky behavior: (i) the Board has previously established share ownership guidelines for the executive officers to align their interests with those of the stockholders; (ii) the grants and terms of restricted stock are established by the Committee; and (iii) the Committee granted restricted stock rather than options to limit the risky behavior associated with trying to maximize stock price. In addition, there are no formulaic compensation arrangements that could create unintended compensation and the Compensation Committee has the ability to exercise discretion over all pay; the CEO meets regularly with the Compensation Committee and quarterly with the Compensation Committee, Executive Committee and Audit Committee chairpersons; the Company's Internal Audit department performs property and other corporate audits to ensure compliance with policies and procedures; the Company maintains a whistleblower hotline; and quarterly disclosure meetings are held with the executive officers and senior management for the purpose of allowing full disclosure of information that may impact the financial statements and related disclosures.

#### COMPENSATION COMMITTEE INTERLOCKS AND INSIDER PARTICIPATION

The Compensation Committee members for the year ended December 31, 2015 were Ms. Rosenberg, Mr. Waterman and Mr. Contis. None of the members has ever been an officer or employee of the Company or any of its subsidiaries, and no "compensation committee interlocks" existed during 2015. For a description of certain transactions with Board members or their affiliates, see "Certain Relationships and Related Transactions."

PROPOSAL NO. 3

NON-BINDING, ADVISORY VOTE ON EXECUTIVE COMPENSATION

Section 14A of the Exchange Act requires the Company to allow stockholders an opportunity to cast a non-binding, advisory vote on executive compensation as disclosed in this Proxy Statement. The following proposal, commonly known as a "Say on Pay" proposal, gives stockholders the opportunity to approve, reject or abstain from voting with respect to the Company's fiscal 2015 executive compensation programs and policies and the compensation paid to the named executive officers.

"RESOLVED, that the compensation paid to the Company's named executive officers, as disclosed pursuant to the SEC's rules and regulations, including the Compensation Discussion and Analysis, the compensation tables and narrative discussion is, hereby approved on an advisory basis."

As discussed in the "Compensation Discussion and Analysis" section of this Proxy Statement, the primary objectives of our executive compensation program are to attract and retain qualified executive officers who are accountable for the performance of the Company and to promote an ownership mentality among our executive officers. The compensation of our executive officers reflects the success of our management team in attaining certain operational goals which leads to the success of the Company and serves the best interests of our stockholders.

This proposal allows our stockholders to express their opinions regarding the decisions of the Compensation Committee on the prior year's annual compensation to the named executive officers. Your non-binding, advisory vote will serve as an additional tool to guide the Board and the Compensation Committee in continuing to improve the alignment of the Company's executive compensation programs with the interests of the Company and its stockholders, and is consistent with our commitment to high standards of corporate governance.

Vote Required

Non-binding, advisory approval of this Say on Pay Proposal requires the affirmative vote of a majority of the votes cast by stockholders of record. Because the vote on this proposal is non-binding and advisory in nature, it will not affect any compensation already paid or awarded to any named executive officer and will not be binding on or overrule any decisions by the Board; it will not create or imply any additional duty on the part of the Board, and it will not restrict or limit the ability of stockholders to make proposals for inclusion in proxy materials related to executive compensation. To the extent there is any significant vote against our named executive officer compensation as disclosed in this proxy statement, the Compensation Committee will evaluate whether any actions are necessary to address the concerns of stockholders. The vote on this resolution is not intended to address any specific element of compensation; rather, the vote relates to the compensation of our named executive officers, as described in this proxy statement in accordance with the compensation disclosure rules of the SEC.

At the 2011 Annual Meeting, the Company's stockholders expressed a preference that non-binding, advisory votes on executive compensation occur every year. Consistent with this preference, the Board determined to implement non-binding, advisory vote on executive compensation on an annual basis. The next vote will occur at next year's Annual Meeting.

Board of Directors Recommendation

The Board unanimously recommends a vote "FOR" approval, on a non-binding, advisory basis, of the executive compensation of our named executive officers as disclosed in this Proxy Statement.

## SECURITY OWNERSHIP OF CERTAIN BENEFICIAL OWNERS

This table sets forth information with respect to persons who are known to own more than 5% of the outstanding shares of Common Stock as of March 4, 2016.

| Name and Business Address of Beneficial Owner   | Amount and Nature of Beneficial Ownership <sup>(1)</sup> | Percentage of Class |
|---|--|---------------------|
| FMR LLC <sup>(2)</sup><br>245 Summer Street<br>Boston, Massachusetts 02210  | 12,644,766   | 14.9%               |
| The Vanguard Group, Inc. <sup>(3)</sup><br>100 Vanguard Blvd.<br>Malvern, Pennsylvania 19355                          | 11,514,169   | 13.6%               |
| Samuel Zell and entities affiliated with Samuel Zell <sup>(4)</sup><br>Two North Riverside Plaza<br>Chicago, IL 60606 | 7,424,018  | 8.8%                |
| BlackRock, Inc. <sup>(5)</sup><br>55 East 52 <sup>nd</sup> Street<br>New York, New York 10055                         | 6,195,924  | 7.3%                |

(1) MHC Operating Limited Partnership (the "Operating Partnership") is the entity through which the Company conducts substantially all of its operations. Certain limited partners of the Operating Partnership own units of limited partnership interest ("OP Units") which are convertible into an equivalent number of shares of Common Stock. In accordance with SEC regulations governing the determination of beneficial ownership of securities, the percentage of Common Stock beneficially owned by a person assumes that all OP Units held by the person are exchanged for Common Stock, that none of the OP Units held by other persons are so exchanged, that all options exercisable within 60 days of the Record Date to acquire Common Stock held by the person are exercised and that no options to acquire Common Stock held by other persons are exercised.

(2) Pursuant to a Schedule 13G/A filed with the SEC for calendar year 2015, FMR LLC is the beneficial owner of 12,644,766 shares of Common Stock and has sole voting power over 3,642,899 shares of Common Stock and sole dispositive power over 12,644,766 shares of Common Stock.

(3) Pursuant to a Schedule 13G filed with the SEC for calendar year 2015, The Vanguard Group, Inc. is the beneficial owner of 11,514,169 shares of Common Stock and has sole voting power over 173,378 shares of Common Stock and sole dispositive power over 11,391,467 shares of Common Stock. The Schedule 13G filed with the SEC for calendar year 2015 by Vanguard Specialized Funds - Vanguard REIT Index Fund states that it has sole voting power over 5,768,905 shares of Common Stock. We confirmed that the 5,768,905 shares held by Vanguard Specialized Funds - Vanguard REIT Index Fund are included in the 11,514,169 shares of Common Stock held by The Vanguard Group.



Includes Common Stock, OP Units which are exchangeable for Common Stock, and options to purchase Common (4) Stock which are currently exercisable or exercisable within 60 days of the Record Date owned as set forth below. A portion of these amounts has been pledged as security for certain loans.

|                                | Common<br>Stock | OP Units  | Options |
|--------------------------------|-----------------|-----------|---------|
| Samuel Zell                    | 2,282,182       | —         | 640,000 |
| Samuel Zell Revocable Trust    | 201,102         | —         | —       |
| Helen Zell Revocable Trust     | 8,000           | —         | —       |
| SZJT Holdings, L.L.C.          | —               | 196,542   | —       |
| SZKT Holdings, L.L.C.          | —               | 196,542   | —       |
| SZMT Holdings, L.L.C.          | —               | 196,548   | —       |
| Samstock, L.L.C.               | 892,000         | —         | —       |
| Samstock/SZRT, L.L.C.          | 588,266         | 27,282    | —       |
| Samstock/ZGPI, L.L.C.          | 12,006          | —         | —       |
| Samstock/ZFT, L.L.C.           | 17,774          | —         | —       |
| Samstock/Alpha, L.L.C.         | 17,774          | —         | —       |
| ZFTGT Holdings, L.L.C.         | —               | 64,280    | —       |
| ZFTJT Holdings, L.L.C.         | —               | 299,970   | —       |
| ZFTKT Holdings, L.L.C.         | —               | 299,970   | —       |
| ZFTMT Holdings, L.L.C.         | —               | 299,968   | —       |
| Zell General Partnership, Inc. | —               | 24,066    | —       |
| EGI OP Holdings L.L.C.         | —               | 1,159,746 | —       |
| TOTALS:                        | 4,019,104       | 2,764,914 | 640,000 |

Samuel Zell's spouse, Helen Zell, is the trustee of Helen Zell Revocable Trust ("HZRT"). Samuel Zell disclaims beneficial ownership of such shares held by HZRT except to the extent of any pecuniary interest therein. The number in the table includes 939,554 shares of Common Stock and 2,737,632 OP Units in which Mr. Zell does not have any voting or dispositive power. These shares of Common Stock and OP Units are indirectly owned by trusts established for the benefit of Mr. Zell and his family, the trustee of which is Chai Trust Company, LLC. ("Chai Trust"). Mr. Zell is not an officer or director of Chai Trust and does not have voting or dispositive power with respect to such Common Stock or OP Units or the Shares into which they are convertible. Mr. Zell disclaims beneficial ownership of such 939,554 shares of Common Stock and 2,737,632 OP Units and the Shares into which they are convertible, except to the extent of any pecuniary interest therein.

Pursuant to a Schedule 13G/A filed with the SEC for calendar year 2015, BlackRock Inc. is the beneficial owner of (5) and has sole dispositive power over 6,195,924 shares of Common Stock and has sole voting power over 5,678,402 shares of Common Stock.

## SECURITY OWNERSHIP OF MANAGEMENT AND DIRECTORS

The following table sets forth, as of March 4, 2016, certain information with respect to the Common Stock and Preferred Stock that may be deemed to be beneficially owned by each director of the Company, by the NEOs as of December 31, 2015 and by all such directors and executive officers as a group. The address for each of the directors and executive officers is c/o Equity LifeStyle Properties, Inc., Two North Riverside Plaza, Suite 800, Chicago, Illinois 60606. Unless otherwise indicated, each person has sole investment and voting power, or shares such power with his or her spouse, with respect to the Common Stock set forth in the following table. Shares of Preferred Stock do not have voting rights.

| Name of Beneficial Holder                                | Shares of Common Stock <sup>(1)</sup> | Common Stock Shares Upon Exercise of Options <sup>(2)</sup> | Total Shares of Common Stock | Percentage of Common Stock Class <sup>(3)</sup> | Depositary Shares <sup>(4)</sup> | Percentage of Preferred Stock Class |
|--|---------------------------------------|---|------------------------------|---|----------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Philip Calian  | 95,475                                | —   | 95,475                       | *   | 5,000                            | *                                   |
| David Contis   | 22,180                                | 5,600   | 27,780                       | *   | —                                | *                                   |
| Thomas Dobrowski <sup>(5)</sup>                          | 40,750                                | —   | 40,750                       | *   | 3,000                            | *                                   |
| Thomas Heneghan <sup>(6)</sup>                           | 339,776                               | —   | 339,776                      | *   | 40,000                           | *                                   |
| Tao Huang  | 473                                   | —   | 473                          | *   | —                                | *                                   |
| Roger Maynard  | 170,379                               | —   | 170,379                      | *   | 8,000                            | *                                   |
| Marguerite Nader   | 89,037                                | —   | 89,037                       | *   | 16,000                           | *                                   |
| Sheli Rosenberg <sup>(7)</sup>                           | 574,675                               | —   | 574,675                      | *   | 28,000                           | *                                   |
| Paul Seavey  | 46,503                                | —   | 46,503                       | *   | 1,500                            | *                                   |
| Patrick Waite  | 62,606                                | —   | 62,606                       | *   | —                                | *                                   |
| Howard Walker  | 56,612                                | —   | 56,612                       | *   | —                                | *                                   |
| Gary Waterman  | 253,173                               | —   | 253,173                      | *   | 40,000                           | *                                   |
| William Young  | 11,846                                | —   | 11,846                       | *   | —                                | *                                   |
| Samuel Zell <sup>(8)</sup>                               | 6,784,018                             | 640,000   | 7,424,018                    | 8.8%  | 188,000                          | 3.5%                                |
| Directors and Executive Officers as a group (14 persons) | 8,547,503                             | 645,600   | 9,193,103                    | 10.9%   | 329,500                          | 6.1%                                |

\* Less than 1%

(1) The shares of Common Stock beneficially owned includes OP Units that can be exchanged for an equivalent number of shares of Common Stock.

(2) The amounts shown in this column reflect shares of Common Stock subject to options, which are currently exercisable or exercisable within 60 days of the Record Date.

In accordance with SEC regulations governing the determination of beneficial ownership of securities, the percentage of Common Stock beneficially owned by a person assumes that all OP Units held by the person are exchanged for Common Stock, that none of the OP Units held by other persons are so exchanged, that all options exercisable within 60 days of the Record Date to acquire Common Stock held by the person are exercised and that no options to acquire Common Stock held by other persons are exercised.

(4) Depositary shares represent 1/100th of a share of the Company's 6.75% Series C Cumulative Redeemable Perpetual Preferred Stock.

(5) The 3,000 depositary shares are held in a margin account.

(6) Includes 130,236 shares of Common Stock beneficially owned by Mr. Heneghan's spouse, as to which Mr. Heneghan disclaims beneficial ownership.

(7) Includes 23,060 OP Units beneficially owned by Ms. Rosenberg, which are exchangeable into 23,060 shares of Common Stock. Also includes approximately 201,128 shares of Common Stock and 20,000 depositary shares

beneficially owned by Ms. Rosenberg's spouse, as to which Ms. Rosenberg disclaims beneficial ownership.

(8) Samuel Zell's spouse, Helen Zell, is the trustee of Helen Zell Revocable Trust ("HZRT"). Samuel Zell disclaims beneficial ownership of such shares held by HZRT except to the extent of any pecuniary interest therein.

The number in the table includes 939,554 shares of Common Stock and 2,737,632 OP Units in which Mr. Zell does not have any voting or dispositive power. These shares of Common Stock and OP Units are indirectly owned by trusts established for the benefit of Mr. Zell and his family, the trustee of which is Chai Trust. Mr. Zell is not an officer or director of Chai Trust and does not have voting or dispositive power with respect to such Common Stock or OP Units. Mr. Zell disclaims beneficial ownership of such 939,554 shares of Common Stock and 2,737,632 OP Units, except to the extent of any pecuniary interest therein.

Approximately 2.4 million OP Units as to which Mr. Zell does not have beneficial interest are pledged as security for certain loans. Approximately 2.8 million shares of Common Stock as to which Mr. Zell does not have beneficial interest are pledged as security for certain loans.

#### CERTAIN RELATIONSHIPS AND RELATED TRANSACTIONS

The Audit Committee is responsible for reviewing and approving all material transactions with any related party. Related parties include any of our directors or executive officers and their immediate family members. Our policy regarding related party transactions is outlined in our Business Ethics and Conduct Policy, a copy of which can be found on the Company's website. Our Business Ethics and Conduct Policy requires all directors, officers and employees who may have a potential or apparent conflict of interest to immediately notify the Company's Executive Vice President, General Counsel and Corporate Secretary. Further, to identify related party transactions, we submit and require our directors and executive officers to complete Director and Officer Questionnaires identifying any transactions with us in which the director, executive officer, or their family members have an interest.

#### Corporate Headquarters

We lease office space from Two North Riverside Plaza Joint Venture Limited Partnership, an entity affiliated with Mr. Zell, Chairman of our Board of Directors. Payments made in accordance with the lease agreement to this entity amounted to approximately \$1.4 million for the years ended December 31, 2015, 2014 and 2013.

#### SECTION 16(a) BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP REPORTING COMPLIANCE

Section 16(a) of the Exchange Act ("Section 16(a)") requires the Company's executive officers and directors, and persons who own more than 10% of the Common Stock, to file reports of ownership and changes of ownership with the SEC and the NYSE. Executive officers, directors and greater than 10% stockholders are required by SEC regulations to furnish the Company with copies of all Section 16(a) forms they file.

Based solely on the Company's review of the copies of those forms received by the Company, or written representations from executive officers and directors that no Forms 5 were required to be filed for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2015, all appropriate Section 16(a) forms were filed in a timely manner.

#### STOCKHOLDER PROPOSALS FOR THE 2017 ANNUAL MEETING

Stockholder proposals intended to be presented at the 2017 Annual Meeting must be received by the Corporate Secretary of the Company no later than November 30, 2016, in order to be considered for inclusion in the Company's proxy statement and on the proxy card that will be solicited by the Board in connection with the 2017 Annual Meeting.

In addition, if a stockholder desires to bring business before an Annual Meeting of Stockholders, which is not the subject of a proposal for inclusion in the Company's proxy materials, the stockholder must follow the advance notice procedures outlined in the Company's Bylaws. The Company's current Bylaws provide that in order for a stockholder to nominate a candidate for election as a director at an Annual Meeting or propose business for consideration at such Annual Meeting, notice must generally be given to the Corporate Secretary of the Company no more than 90 days nor less than 60 days prior to the first anniversary of the preceding year's Annual Meeting. The 2016 Annual Meeting is scheduled for May 10, 2016. Therefore, if a stockholder desires to present a proposal for the 2017 Annual Meeting without seeking to include the proposal in the Company's proxy materials, the Company must receive notice of the proposal no earlier than February 9, 2017 and no later than March 11, 2017. Copies of the Bylaws may be obtained from the Corporate Secretary of the Company by written request.

#### 2015 ANNUAL REPORT

Stockholders are concurrently being furnished with a copy of the Company's 2015 Annual Report and Annual Report on Form 10-K. Additional copies of the 2015 Annual Report and Annual Report on Form 10-K and of this Proxy Statement are available at <http://www.astproxyportal.com/ast/26115> or by contacting Equity LifeStyle Properties, Inc, Attn: Investor Relations, at Two North Riverside Plaza, Suite 800, Chicago, Illinois 60606 (toll-free number: 1-800-247-5279 or email: [investor\\_relations@equitylifestyle.com](mailto:investor_relations@equitylifestyle.com)). Copies will be furnished promptly at no additional expense.

#### HOUSEHOLDING OF PROXY MATERIALS

The SEC has adopted rules that permit companies and intermediaries (such as banks and brokers) to satisfy the delivery requirements for proxy statements and annual reports with respect to two or more stockholders sharing the same address by delivering a single proxy statement addressed to those stockholders. This process, which is commonly referred to as "householding," potentially means extra convenience for stockholders and cost savings for companies.

This year, a number of brokers with account holders who are our stockholders will be "householding" our proxy materials. A single Notice will be delivered to multiple stockholders sharing an address unless contrary instructions have been received from the impacted stockholders. Once you have received notice from your broker that they will be "householding" communications to your address, "householding" will continue until you are notified otherwise or until you revoke your consent. If, at any time, you no longer wish to participate in "householding" and would prefer to receive a Notice, please notify us, by directing your request to: Equity LifeStyle Properties, Inc., Two North Riverside Plaza, Suite 800, Chicago, Illinois 60606; Attn: David Eldersveld, Corporate Secretary, Telephone: 312-279-1400. Stockholders who currently receive multiple copies of the proxy statement at their address and would like to request "householding" of their communications should contact their broker as specified above.

#### OTHER MATTERS

The Board knows of no other matters to be presented for stockholder action at the Annual Meeting. If any other matters are properly presented at the Annual Meeting for action, it is intended that the persons named in the accompanying proxy and acting thereunder will vote in accordance with their discretion on such matters.

By Order of the Board of Directors

David P. Eldersveld  
Executive Vice President, General Counsel and  
Corporate Secretary

March 22, 2016  
Chicago, Illinois

Appendix A

EQUITY LIFESTYLE PROPERTIES, INC.

Supplemental Information for the Compensation Discussion and Analysis in the Proxy Statement for the 2016 Annual Meeting of Stockholders

INFORMATION REGARDING NON-GAAP FINANCIAL MEASURES AND RECONCILIATION OF NON-GAAP FINANCIAL MEASURES TO MOST DIRECTLY COMPARABLE GAAP MEASURES

The Compensation Discussion and Analysis of this Proxy Statement contains Normalized Funds from Operations ("Normalized FFO"), a non-GAAP financial measure. We believe Funds From Operations ("FFO"), as defined by the Board of Governors of the National Association of Real Estate Investment Trusts ("NAREIT"), is generally an appropriate measure of performance for an equity REIT. While FFO is a relevant and widely used measure of operating performance for equity REITs, it does not represent cash flow from operations or net income as defined by GAAP, and it should not be considered as an alternative to these indicators in evaluating liquidity or operating performance. We define FFO as net income, computed in accordance with GAAP, excluding gains and actual or estimated losses from sales of properties, plus real estate related depreciation and amortization, impairments, if any, and after adjustments for unconsolidated partnerships and joint ventures. Adjustments for unconsolidated partnerships and joint ventures are calculated to reflect FFO on the same basis. We receive up-front non-refundable payments from the entry of right-to-use contracts. In accordance with GAAP, the upfront nonrefundable payments and related commissions are deferred and amortized over the estimated customer life. Although the NAREIT definition of FFO does not address the treatment of nonrefundable right-to-use payments, we believe that it is appropriate to adjust for the impact of the deferral activity in our calculation of FFO. Normalized FFO is a non-GAAP measure. We define Normalized FFO as FFO excluding the following non-operating income and expense items: a) the financial impact of contingent consideration; b) gains and losses from early debt extinguishment, including prepayment penalties and defeasance costs; c) property acquisition and other transaction costs related to mergers and acquisitions; and d) other miscellaneous non-comparable items.

We believe that FFO and Normalized FFO are helpful to investors as supplemental measures of the performance of an equity REIT. We believe that by excluding the effect of depreciation, amortization and actual or estimated gains or losses from sales of real estate, all of which are based on historical costs and which may be of limited relevance in evaluating current performance, FFO can facilitate comparisons of operating performance between periods and among other equity REITs. We further believe that Normalized FFO provides useful information to investors, analysts and our management because it allows them to compare our operating performance to the operating performance of other real estate companies and between periods on a consistent basis without having to account for differences not related to our operations. For example, we believe that excluding the early extinguishment of debt, property acquisition and other transaction costs related to mergers and acquisitions and the change in fair value of our contingent consideration asset from Normalized FFO allows investors, analysts and our management to assess the sustainability of operating performance in future periods because these costs do not affect the future operations of the properties. In some cases, we provide information about identified non-cash components of FFO and Normalized FFO because it allows investors, analysts and our management to assess the impact of those items.

Investors should review FFO and Normalized FFO along with GAAP net income and cash flow from operating activities, investing activities and financing activities, when evaluating an equity REIT's operating performance. We compute FFO in accordance with our interpretation of standards established by NAREIT, which may not be comparable to FFO reported by other REITs that do not define the term in accordance with the current NAREIT definition or that interpret the current NAREIT definition differently than we do. Normalized FFO presented herein is not necessarily comparable to normalized FFO presented by other real estate companies due to the fact that not all real estate companies use the same methodology for computing this amount. FFO and Normalized FFO do not represent cash generated from operating activities in accordance with GAAP, nor do they represent cash available to pay distributions and should not be considered as an alternative to net income, determined in accordance with GAAP, as an indication of our financial performance, or to cash flow from operating activities, determined in accordance with GAAP, as a measure of our liquidity, nor is it indicative of funds available to fund our cash needs, including our ability to make cash distributions.



The following table presents a calculation of Normalized FFO for the years ended December 31, 2015, 2014, 2013, 2012 and 2011 (amounts in thousands):

| Computation of Normalized Funds From Operations:            | 2015      | 2014      | 2013      | 2012      | 2011     |
|---|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|----------|
| Net income available for common shares                      | \$130,145 | \$118,731 | \$106,919 | \$54,779  | 22,775   |
| Income allocated to common OP units                         | 11,141    | 10,463    | 9,706     | 5,067     | 3,105    |
| Series B Redeemable Preferred Stock Dividends               | —         | —         | —         | —         | 466      |
| Right-to-use contract upfront payments, deferred, net       | 4,231     | 5,501     | 5,694     | 6,694     | 11,936   |
| Right-to-use contract commissions, deferred, net            | (1,556 )  | (2,617 )  | (2,410 )  | (3,155 )  | (4,789 ) |
| Depreciation on real estate assets                          | 102,934   | 100,159   | 101,694   | 96,530    | 78,897   |
| Depreciation on real estate assets, discontinued operations | —         | —         | 1,536     | 2,832     | 1,250    |
| Depreciation on rental homes                                | 10,675    | 10,906    | 6,535     | 5,553     | 4,116    |
| Amortization of in-place leases                             | 2,358     | 3,999     | 1,940     | 39,467    | 23,126   |
| Amortization of in-place leases, discontinued operations    | —         | —         | —         | 5,656     | 5,347    |
| Depreciation on unconsolidated joint ventures               | 1,081     | 903       | 960       | 1,166     | 1,228    |
| Gain on sale of property                                    | —         | (1,457 )  | (41,525 ) | (4,596 )  | —        |
| FFO available for common stockholders                       | 261,009   | 246,588   | 191,049   | 209,993   | 147,457  |
| Change in fair value of contingent consideration asset      | —         | (65 )     | 1,442     | (462 )    | —        |
| Transaction costs   | 1,130     | 1,647     | 1,963     | 157       | 18,493   |
| Early debt retirement                                       | 16,913    | 5,087     | 37,844    | —         | —        |
| Normalized FFO available for common stockholders            | \$279,052 | \$253,257 | \$232,298 | \$209,688 | 165,950  |





