

ASHFORD HOSPITALITY TRUST INC

Form 424B2

September 16, 2010

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Filed pursuant to Rule 424(b)(2)  
Registration No. 333-162750

PROSPECTUS SUPPLEMENT  
(To prospectus dated January 25, 2010)

**3,300,000 Shares**

**Ashford Hospitality Trust Inc.**

**8.45% Series D Cumulative Preferred Stock  
(Liquidation Preference \$25 per Share)**

We are offering 3,300,000 shares of our 8.45% Series D Cumulative Preferred Stock, par value \$.01 per share, referred to as our Series D Preferred Stock. This offering is a re-opening of our original issuance of Series D Preferred Stock, which occurred on July 11, 2007. As of the date of this prospectus supplement, there were 5,666,797 shares of Series D Preferred Stock outstanding.

We pay cumulative dividends on the Series D Preferred Stock in the amount of \$2.1125 per share each year, which is equivalent to 8.45% of the \$25.00 liquidation preference per share. Dividends on the Series D Preferred Stock are payable quarterly in arrears on or about the 15th day of January, April, July and October of each year. The first dividend on the Series D Preferred Stock sold in this offering is payable on October 15, 2010 and will be for a full quarter in the amount of \$0.528125 per share.

Generally, we may not redeem the Series D Preferred Stock before July 18, 2012, except to preserve our status as a real estate investment trust. On or after July 18, 2012, we may, at our option, redeem the Series D Preferred Stock, in whole or in part, by paying \$25.00 per share, plus any accrued and unpaid dividends to and including the date of redemption. Whenever both (i) the Series D Preferred Stock is not listed on the New York Stock Exchange, the NYSE Amex (formerly the American Stock Exchange) or the NASDAQ Global Market, or a successor to any such exchange, and (ii) we are not subject to the reporting requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, the rate at which dividends will accrue on the outstanding Series D Preferred Stock will increase to 9.45% of the liquidation preference per annum. In that event, we may redeem the Series D Preferred Stock, whether before or after July 18, 2012. Our Series D Preferred Stock has no stated maturity, is not subject to any sinking fund or mandatory redemption and is not convertible into any of our other securities. Investors in our Series D Preferred Stock generally have no voting rights but will have limited voting rights if we fail to pay dividends on our Series D Preferred Stock for six or more quarters (whether or not consecutive) and under certain other circumstances.

Our Series D Preferred Stock is subject to restrictions on ownership designed to preserve our qualification as a real estate investment trust. See [The Offering Ownership Limit](#) on page S-4 of this prospectus supplement, [Description of the Series D Preferred Stock Restrictions on Ownership](#) on page S-22 of this prospectus supplement, [Description of our Capital Stock Restrictions on Ownership and Transfer](#) on page 5 of the accompanying prospectus and [Description of our Preferred Stock Series D Preferred Stock](#) on page 13 of the accompanying prospectus for more information about these restrictions.

Our Series D Preferred Stock currently trades on the New York Stock Exchange under the symbol AHTPrD. On September 13, 2010, the last reported sale price of our Series D Preferred Stock was \$23.47 per share. The shares of Series D Preferred Stock sold in this offering are expected to be listed on the NYSE under the existing symbol.

**Investing in our Series D Preferred Stock involves risks. See Risk Factors beginning on page S-5 of this prospectus supplement and on page 12 of our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2009.**

	<b>Per share</b>	<b>Total</b>
Public offering price(1)	\$ 23.178	\$ 76,487,400
Underwriting discounts and commissions	\$ 0.730107	\$ 2,409,353
Proceeds, before expenses, to us(1)	\$ 22.447893	\$ 74,078,047

*(1) Including accrued dividends.*

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

Delivery of the Series D Preferred Stock will be made by the underwriters on or about September 22, 2010.

***Joint Book-Running Managers***

**UBS Investment Bank**

**Citi**

***Co-Managers***

**Barclays Capital**

**Deutsche Bank Securities**

**FBR Capital Markets**

The date of this prospectus supplement is September 15, 2010.

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**You should rely only on the information contained or incorporated by reference in this prospectus supplement or the accompanying prospectus in making a decision about whether to invest in our Series D Preferred Stock. We have not, and the underwriters have not, authorized anyone to provide you with different or additional**

**information. We take no responsibility for, and can provide no assurance as to the reliability of, any different or inconsistent information. We are offering to sell, and seeking offers to buy, shares of our Series D Preferred Stock only in jurisdictions where offers and sales are permitted. You should assume that the information appearing in this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus and the documents incorporated by reference is only accurate as of the respective dates which are specified in those documents. Our business, financial condition, results of operations and prospects may have changed since those dates.**

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Prospectus supplement summary

*The following summary highlights information contained elsewhere or incorporated by reference in this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus. It may not contain all of the information that is important to you. Before making a decision to invest in our Series D Preferred Stock, you should read carefully this entire prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus, including the sections entitled Risk Factors beginning on page S-5 of this prospectus supplement and on page 12 of our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2009, as well as the documents incorporated by reference into the accompanying prospectus. This summary is qualified in its entirety by the more detailed information and financial statements, including the notes thereto, appearing elsewhere or incorporated by reference in this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus. All references to we, our and us in this prospectus supplement mean Ashford Hospitality Trust, Inc. and all entities owned or controlled by us except where it is made clear that the term means only the parent company. The term you refers to a prospective investor.*

**THE COMPANY**

We are a Maryland corporation that was formed in May 2003 to invest in the hospitality industry at all levels of the capital structure. As of June 30, 2010, we owned 96 hotel properties directly and six hotel properties through majority-owned investments in joint ventures, with a total of 22,483 rooms, or 22,141 rooms if those attributable to joint venture partners are excluded. Our hotels are primarily operated under the widely recognized upper-upscale brands of Crown Plaza, Hilton, Hyatt, Marriott, Sheraton and Westin, and all of our hotel properties are located in the United States. As of June 30, 2010, we also owned mezzanine and first-mortgage loans receivable with a carrying value, net of impairments, of \$35.6 million. In addition, at June 30, 2010, we had a 25% ownership interest in a joint venture which had \$84.0 million of mezzanine loans and an 18% subordinated interest in a joint venture that was formed to hold a hotel property collateralizing a junior participation loan receivable that was foreclosed in March 2010.

Our current business strategy focuses on preserving capital, enhancing liquidity and continuing cost saving measures; however, our long-term investment strategies will continue to focus on the upscale and upper-upscale segments within the lodging industry. We believe that as hotel supply and demand and capital market cycles change, we will be able to shift our investment strategies to take advantage of lodging-related investment opportunities as they develop. During the recent economic crisis, we implemented numerous cost saving measures along with strategies to modify or extend our debt. We also repurchased shares of our common and preferred stock during a time that we believed the stock was undervalued. We are not currently pursuing a stock repurchase strategy, nor do we intend to do so in the near term based on current market conditions. Currently, we do not limit our acquisitions to any specific geographical market within the United States.

As the business cycle changes and the hotel markets improve, we intend to continue to invest in a variety of lodging-related assets based upon our evaluation of diverse market conditions including our cost of capital and the expected returns from those investments. These investments may include: (i) direct hotel investments; (ii) mezzanine financing through origination or acquisition in secondary markets; (iii) first-lien mortgage financing through origination or acquisition in secondary markets; and (iv) sale-leaseback transactions.

We are self-advised and own our lodging investments and conduct our business through Ashford Hospitality Limited Partnership, our operating partnership. We are the sole general partner of our operating partnership.

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We have elected to be treated as a real estate investment trust, or REIT, for federal income tax purposes. Our principal executive offices are located at 14185 Dallas Parkway, Suite 1100, Dallas, Texas 75254. Our telephone number is (972) 490-9600. Our website is <http://www.ahtreit.com>. The contents of our website are not a part of this prospectus supplement or the accompanying prospectus.

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The offering

The Issuer

Ashford Hospitality Trust, Inc.

Securities Offered

3,300,000 shares of 8.45% Series D Cumulative Preferred Stock, which are a further issuance of, form a single series with and have the same terms as our outstanding shares of Series D Preferred Stock.

Series D Preferred Stock to be outstanding after this offering

8,966,797 shares of 8.45% Series D Cumulative Preferred Stock.

Dividends

Dividends on the Series D Preferred Stock are cumulative and are payable quarterly, when and as declared, at the rate of 8.45% of the \$25.00 liquidation preference per year (equivalent to an annual dividend rate of \$2.1125 per share). However, during any period of time that both (i) the Series D Preferred Stock is not listed on the New York Stock Exchange, or NYSE, the NYSE Amex (formerly the American Stock Exchange), or the NASDAQ Global Market, or NASDAQ, or listed on an exchange that is a successor to the NYSE, NYSE Amex or NASDAQ, and (ii) we are not subject to the reporting requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended, or the Exchange Act, and any shares of Series D Preferred Stock are outstanding, the rate at which cash dividends will accrue on the Series D Preferred Stock will increase to a rate of 9.45% of the \$25.00 per share liquidation preference per year (equivalent to an annual dividend rate of \$2.3625 per share). Dividends will be payable quarterly on the 15th day of January, April, July and October of each year, or if such day is not a business day, the next succeeding business day. The first dividend on the Series D Preferred Stock sold in this offering is payable on October 15, 2010 and will be for a full quarter (in the amount of \$0.528125 per share).

Liquidation Preference

If we liquidate, dissolve or windup our operations, the holders of our Series D Preferred Stock will have a right to receive \$25.00 per share, plus an amount equal to accumulated, accrued and unpaid dividends (whether or not declared) to the date of payment, before any payment is made to the holders of our common stock or any of our other equity securities ranking junior to the Series D Preferred Stock. The rights of the holders of the Series D Preferred Stock to receive the liquidation preference will be subject to the rights of holders of our debt, holders of any equity securities senior in liquidation preference to the Series D Preferred Stock and the proportionate rights of holders of each other series or class of our equity securities ranked on a parity with the Series D Preferred Stock, including our Series A Cumulative Preferred Stock and Series B-1 Cumulative Convertible Redeemable Preferred Stock.

Special Optional Redemption

If at any time both (i) the Series D Preferred Stock is not listed on the NYSE, NYSE Amex or NASDAQ or listed on an exchange that is a successor to the NYSE, NYSE Amex or



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NASDAQ and (ii) we are no longer subject to the reporting requirements of the Exchange Act but the Series D Preferred Stock is still outstanding, then the Series D Preferred Stock will be redeemable at our option, in whole but not in part, within 90 days of the date upon which the shares cease to be listed or quoted and we cease to be subject to the reporting requirements of the Exchange Act. In such event, the shares of Series D Preferred Stock will be redeemable for a cash redemption price of \$25.00 per share plus accrued and unpaid dividends, if any, to the redemption date.

**Optional Redemption**

On and after July 18, 2012, we may redeem the Series D Preferred Stock for cash at our option, in whole or from time to time in part, at a redemption price of \$25.00 per share, plus accrued and unpaid dividends, if any, to the redemption date. Except with respect to the special optional redemption described above, and in certain limited circumstances relating to the ownership limitation necessary to preserve our qualification as a REIT, the Series D Preferred Stock will not be redeemable prior to July 18, 2012.

**Maturity**

The Series D Preferred Stock has no stated maturity date and is not subject to mandatory redemption or any sinking fund. We are not required to set aside funds to redeem the Series D Preferred Stock. Accordingly, the Series D Preferred Stock will remain outstanding indefinitely unless we decide to redeem the shares at our option.

**Ranking**

The Series D Preferred Stock ranks senior to our common stock and future junior securities, equal with each series of our outstanding preferred stock (our Series A Cumulative Preferred Stock and Series B-1 Cumulative Convertible Redeemable Preferred Stock) and with any future parity securities and junior to future senior securities and to all our existing and future indebtedness, with respect to the payment of dividends and the distribution of amounts upon liquidation, dissolution or winding up.

**Voting Rights**

Holders of Series D Preferred Stock generally have no voting rights except as required by law. However, whenever dividends on the Series D Preferred Stock are in arrears for six or more quarterly periods (whether or not consecutive), the holders of such shares (voting together as a single class with all other shares of any class or series of shares ranking on a parity with the Series D Preferred Stock which are entitled to similar voting rights, if any) will be entitled to vote for the election of two additional directors to serve on our board of directors until all dividends in arrears on outstanding Series D Preferred Stock have been paid or declared and set apart for payment. In addition, the issuance of future senior stock or certain charter amendments, whether by merger, consolidation or business combination or otherwise, materially adversely affecting the rights of holders of Series D Preferred Stock cannot be made without the affirmative vote of holders of at least 66 $\frac{2}{3}$ % of the outstanding Series D Preferred Stock and shares of any class or



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series of stock ranking on a parity with the Series D Preferred Stock which are entitled to similar voting rights, if any, voting as a single class.

**Ownership Limit**

Subject to certain exceptions, no person may own, directly or indirectly, more than 9.8% (in value or number of shares, whichever is more restrictive) of the outstanding shares of our Series D Preferred Stock, unless our board of directors grants a waiver of such limitation.

**Information Rights**

During any period that both (i) the Series D Preferred Stock is not listed on the NYSE, NYSE Amex or NASDAQ, or listed on an exchange that is a successor to the NYSE, NYSE Amex or NASDAQ, and (ii) we are not subject to the reporting requirements of the Exchange Act, and any Series D Preferred Stock is outstanding, we will (i) transmit by mail or other permissible means under the Exchange Act to all holders of Series D Preferred Stock copies of the annual reports and quarterly reports that we would have been required to file with the SEC, pursuant to Section 13 or 15(d) of the Exchange Act if we were subject thereto (other than any exhibits that would have been required), and (ii) within 15 days following written request, supply copies of such reports to any prospective holder of the Series D Preferred Stock. We will mail (or otherwise provide) the reports to the holders of Series D Preferred Stock within 15 days after the respective dates by which we would have been required to file such reports with the SEC if we were subject to Section 13 or 15(d) of the Exchange Act.

**Listing**

Our Series D Preferred Stock currently trades on the NYSE under the symbol AHTPrD. The shares of Series D Preferred Stock sold in this offering are expected to be listed on the NYSE under the existing symbol.

**Conversion**

The Series D Preferred Stock is not convertible into or exchangeable for any of our other securities or property.

**Use of Proceeds**

We intend to use the net proceeds from the sale of the Series D Preferred Stock to repay a portion of our outstanding borrowings under our existing senior credit facility, although we may also use a portion of the net proceeds to redeem a portion of our Series B-1 Cumulative Convertible Redeemable Preferred Stock, referred to as the Series B-1 Preferred Stock, all of the shares of which are currently held by Security Capital Preferred Growth Incorporated, or for other general corporate purposes. See Use of Proceeds on page S-14 of this prospectus supplement.

**Settlement**

Delivery of the shares of Series D Preferred Stock will be made against payment therefor on or about September 22, 2010.

**Risk Factors**

See Risk Factors beginning on page S-5 of this prospectus supplement and on page 12 of our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2009 for risks that you should consider before purchasing shares of our Series D Preferred Stock.

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Risk factors

*An investment in the Series D Preferred Stock involves various risks, including those described below and in our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2009. Prospective investors should carefully consider such risk factors, together with all of the information contained in or incorporated by reference in this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus in determining whether to purchase the Series D Preferred Stock offered hereby.*

**Our Series D Preferred Stock is subordinate to our debt, and your interests could be diluted by the issuance of additional preferred stock, including additional Series D Preferred Stock, and by other transactions.**

The Series D Preferred Stock is subordinate to all of our existing and future debt. Our future debt may include restrictions on our ability to pay dividends to preferred stockholders. Our charter currently authorizes the issuance of up to 50,000,000 shares of preferred stock in one or more series. The issuance of additional preferred stock on parity with or senior to the Series D Preferred Stock would dilute the interests of the holders of the Series D Preferred Stock, and any issuance of preferred stock senior to the Series D Preferred Stock or of additional indebtedness could affect our ability to pay dividends on, redeem or pay the liquidation preference on the Series D Preferred Stock. Other than the increase in the dividend that may occur in a circumstance described under Description of the Series D Preferred Stock Dividends below, none of the provisions relating to the Series D Preferred Stock contains any provisions affording the holders of the Series D Preferred Stock protection in the event of a highly leveraged or other transaction, including a merger or the sale, lease or conveyance of all or substantially all our assets or business, that might adversely affect the holders of the Series D Preferred Stock, so long as the rights of the holders of the Series D Preferred Stock are not materially and adversely affected.

**As a holder of Series D Preferred Stock you have extremely limited voting rights.**

Your voting rights as a holder of Series D Preferred Stock will be limited. Shares of our common stock and shares of our Series B-1 Preferred Stock are the only classes carrying full voting rights. Voting rights for holders of Series D Preferred Stock exist primarily with respect to adverse changes in the terms of the Series D Preferred Stock, the creation of additional classes or series of preferred stock that are senior to the Series D Preferred Stock and our failure to pay dividends on the Series D Preferred Stock.

**Listing on the NYSE does not guarantee a market for our Series D Preferred Stock, and the market price and trading volume of our Series D Preferred Stock may fluctuate significantly.**

The market determines the trading price for the Series D Preferred Stock and may be influenced by many factors, including our history of paying dividends on the Series D Preferred Stock, variations in our financial results, the market for similar securities, investors' perceptions of us, our issuance of additional preferred equity or indebtedness and general economic, industry, interest rate and market conditions. Because the Series D Preferred Stock carries a fixed dividend rate, its value in the secondary market will be influenced by changes in interest rates and will tend to move inversely to such changes. In particular, an increase in market interest rates will result in higher yields on other financial instruments and may lead purchasers of Series D Preferred Stock to demand a higher yield on the price paid for the Series D Preferred Stock, which could adversely affect the market price of the Series D Preferred Stock. Historically, the daily trading volume of the Series D Preferred Stock has been lower than the trading volume of many other securities. As a result, investors who desire to liquidate substantial holdings of the Series D Preferred Stock at a single point in time may find that they are unable to dispose of their shares in the market without causing a substantial decline in the market price of such shares.



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**Risk factors**

**The current financial crisis and general economic slowdown has harmed the operating performance of the hotel industry generally. If these or similar events continue or occur again in the future, our operating and financial results may be harmed by declines in occupancy, average daily room rates and/or other operating revenues.**

The performance of the lodging industry has traditionally been closely linked with the performance of the general economy and, specifically, growth in the U.S. gross domestic product. A majority of our hotels are classified as upper upscale. In an economic downturn, these types of hotels may be more susceptible to a decrease in revenue, as compared to hotels in other categories that have lower or higher room rates. This characteristic may result from the fact that upscale and upper upscale hotels generally target business and high-end leisure travelers. In periods of economic difficulties, business and leisure travelers may seek to reduce travel costs by limiting travel or seeking to reduce costs on their trips. Likewise, the volatility in the credit and equity markets and the economic recession will continue to have an adverse effect on our business.

**We are subject to various risks related to our use of, and dependence on, debt.**

As of June 30, 2010, we had aggregate borrowings of approximately \$2.8 billion outstanding, including \$913.6 million of variable interest rate debt. The interest we pay on variable-rate debt increases as interest rates increase, which may decrease cash available for distribution to stockholders. We are also subject to the risk that we may not be able to meet our debt service obligations or refinance our debt as it becomes due. If we do not meet our debt service obligations, we risk the loss of some or all of our assets to foreclosure. Changes in economic conditions or our financial results or prospects could (i) result in higher interest rates on variable-rate debt, (ii) reduce the availability of debt financing generally or debt financing at favorable rates, (iii) reduce cash available for distribution to stockholders, (iv) increase the risk that we could be forced to liquidate assets to repay debt, any of which could have a material adverse effect on us, and (v) create other hazardous situations for the Company.

Our debt agreements contain financial and other covenants. If we violate covenants in any debt agreements, including as a result of impairments of our hotel or mezzanine loan assets, we could be required to repay all or a portion of our indebtedness before maturity at a time when we might be unable to arrange financing for such repayment on attractive terms, if at all. Violations of certain debt covenants may also prohibit us from borrowing unused amounts under our lines of credit, even if repayment of some or all the borrowings is not required. In any event, financial covenants under our current or future debt obligations could impair our planned business strategies by limiting our ability to borrow beyond certain amounts or for certain purposes. Our governing instruments do not contain any limitation on our ability to incur indebtedness.

**We have voluntarily elected to cease making payments on the mortgages securing three of our hotels, and we may voluntarily elect to cease making payments on additional mortgages in the future, which could reduce the number of hotels we own as well as our revenues and could affect our ability to raise equity or debt financing in the future or violate covenants in our debt agreements.**

We have recently undertaken a series of actions to manage the sources and uses of our funds in an effort to navigate through challenging market conditions while still pursuing opportunities that can create long-term shareholder value. In this effort, we have attempted to proactively address value and cash flow deficits among certain of our mortgaged hotels, with a goal of enhancing shareholder value through loan amendments, or in certain instances, consensual transfers of hotel properties to the lenders in satisfaction of the related debt, some of which will likely result in



impairment charges. The loans secured by these hotels, subject to certain customary exceptions, were non-recourse to us. We may continue to proactively address value and cash flow deficits in a similar manner as necessary and appropriate.

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**Risk factors**

We have elected to cease making payments on the mortgages securing certain of our hotel properties. In December 2009, after fully cooperating with the servicer for a consensual foreclosure or deed in lieu of foreclosure, we agreed to transfer possession and control of the Hyatt Regency Dearborn to a receiver. In March 2010, we elected to cease making payments on a \$5.8 million mortgage note payable maturing in January 2011, which is secured by a hotel property in Manchester, Connecticut. Since that date, the loan has been transferred to a special servicer. Additionally, in September 2010, we successfully negotiated a consensual transfer of the Westin O Hare hotel to the related lender. In each of these instances, the hotel was not generating sufficient cash flow to cover its debt service and was not expected to generate sufficient cash flow to cover its debt service for the foreseeable future. These and any similar transfers reduce our assets and debt, could have an adverse effect on our ability to raise equity or debt capital in the future or increase the cost of such capital or violate covenants in other debt agreements.

In addition to the foregoing loans, we had approximately \$2.4 billion of mortgage debt outstanding as of June 30, 2010. We may face issues with these loans or with other loans or borrowings that we incur in the future, some of which issues may be beyond our control, including our ability to service payment obligations from the cash flow of the applicable hotel or the inability to refinance existing debt at the applicable maturity date. In such event, we may elect to default on the applicable loan and, as a result, the lenders would have the right to exercise various remedies under the loan documents, which would include foreclosure on the applicable hotels. Any such defaults, whether voluntary or involuntary, could result in a default under our other debt or otherwise have an adverse effect on our business, results of operations or financial condition.

**We may be unable to generate sufficient revenue from operations to pay our operating expenses and to pay dividends to the holders of our Series D Preferred Stock or other stock. Currently, our credit facility limits us from paying dividends if we do not meet certain covenants.**

As a REIT, we are generally required to distribute at least 90% of our net taxable income each year, excluding net capital gains, to our stockholders. Our ability to make distributions may be adversely affected by the risk factors described herein. We cannot assure you that we will be able to make distributions in the future. In the event of continued or future downturns in our operating results and financial performance, unanticipated capital improvements to our hotels or declines in the value of our mortgage portfolio, we may be unable to declare or pay distributions to our stockholders to the extent provided by the terms of the Series D Preferred Stock or our other preferred stock or the extent required to maintain our REIT qualification. The timing and amount of such distributions will be in the sole discretion of our Board of Directors, which will consider, among other factors, our financial performance, debt service obligations, applicable debt covenants and capital expenditure requirements.

**We have engaged in and may continue to engage in derivative transactions, which can limit our gains and expose us to losses.**

We have entered into and may continue to enter into hedging transactions to (i) attempt to take advantage of changes in prevailing interest rates, (ii) protect our portfolio of mortgage assets from interest rate fluctuations, (iii) protect us from the effects of interest rate fluctuations on floating-rate debt, or (iv) preserve net cash flow. Our hedging transactions may include entering into interest rate swap agreements, interest rate cap or floor agreements or floor and corridor agreements and purchasing or selling futures contracts, purchasing put and call options on securities or securities underlying futures contracts, or entering into forward rate agreements. Hedging activities may not have the desired beneficial impact on our results of operations or financial condition. No hedging activity can completely insulate us from the risks inherent in our business.

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**Risk factors**

Moreover, interest rate hedging could fail to protect us or adversely affect us because, among other things:

- Ø Available interest rate hedging may not correspond directly with the interest rate risk for which protection is sought.
- Ø The duration of the hedge may not match the duration of the related liability.
- Ø The party owing money in the hedging transaction may default on its obligation to pay.
- Ø The credit quality of the party owing money on the hedge may be downgraded to such an extent that it impairs our ability to sell or assign our side of the hedging transaction.
- Ø The value of derivatives used for hedging may be adjusted from time to time in accordance with generally accepted accounting rules to reflect changes in fair value; downward adjustments, or mark-to-market losses, would reduce our stockholders equity.
- Ø The hedge may have a margin call.

Hedging involves both risks and costs, including transaction costs, which may reduce our overall returns on our investments. These costs increase as the period covered by the hedging relationship increases and during periods of rising and volatile interest rates. These costs will also limit the amount of cash available for distributions to stockholders. We generally intend to hedge to the extent management determines it is in our best interest given the cost of such hedging transactions as compared to the potential economic returns or protections offered. The REIT qualification rules may limit our ability to enter into hedging transactions by requiring us to limit our income and assets from hedges. If we are unable to hedge effectively because of the REIT rules, we will face greater interest rate exposure than may be commercially prudent.

**If LIBOR rates do not act in the manner or to the extent we have anticipated, we may not generate expected cash flow from our flooridor and corridor derivative transactions, which may adversely affect us.**

In an effort to take advantage of declining LIBOR rates, we entered into a series of interest rate derivatives, referred to as flooridors and corridors beginning in December 2008. The interest rate flooridor combines two interest rate floors, structured such that the purchaser simultaneously buys an interest rate floor at a strike rate X and sells an interest rate floor at a lower strike rate Y. The purchaser of the flooridor is paid when the underlying interest rate index (for example, LIBOR) resets below strike rate X during the term of the flooridor. Unlike a standard floor, the flooridor limits the benefit the purchaser can receive as the related interest rate index falls. Once the underlying index falls below strike Y, the sold floor partially offsets the purchased floor. The interest rate corridor involves purchasing of an interest rate cap at one strike rate X and selling an interest rate cap with a higher strike rate Y. The purchaser of the corridor is paid when the underlying interest rate index resets above the strike rate X during the term of the corridor. The Company is not currently a party to any corridor derivative transaction. If LIBOR rates do not change in the manner or to the extent we have anticipated, we may not generate the cash flow we have anticipated from our flooridor and corridor derivatives, which may adversely affect us, including by impairing our ability to service our debt obligations, comply with financial covenants or make anticipated capital investments in our hotels.

**The assets associated with certain of our derivative transactions do not constitute qualified REIT assets and the related income will not constitute qualified REIT income. Significant fluctuations in the value of such assets or the related income could jeopardize our REIT qualification or result in additional tax liabilities.**

We have entered into certain derivative transactions to protect against interest rate risks not specifically associated with debt incurred to acquire qualified REIT assets. The REIT provisions of the Internal

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**Risk factors**

Revenue Code, limit our income and assets in each year from such derivative transactions. Failure to comply with the asset or income limitation within the REIT provisions of the Internal Revenue Code could result in penalty taxes or loss of our REIT qualification. If we elect to contribute the non-qualifying derivatives into a taxable REIT subsidiary to preserve our REIT qualification, such an action would result in any income from such transactions being subject to federal income taxation.

**If the current economic downturn continues and the underlying hotel properties supporting our mezzanine loan portfolio are unable to generate enough cash flows for the scheduled payments, there is a possibility that our remaining mezzanine loan portfolio could be written off in its entirety, which may adversely affect our operating results.**

When we implemented our mezzanine loan investment strategy, we generally performed the underwriting stress test based on worst case scenarios similar to what the hotel industry experienced during the downturn following the events of September 11, 2001. However, the magnitude of the current economic downturn far exceeded our underwriting sensitivity. As a result, we have recorded impairment charges with respect to our mezzanine loan portfolio of approximately \$148.7 million in 2009, and if the current economic downturn continues, we may record additional impairment charges to this portfolio equal to as much as the remaining balance of our mezzanine loan portfolio of \$56.7 million (including the 25% interest in a mezzanine loan joint venture) as of June 30, 2010. If such a write-off were to occur, it would impact our interest income by up to \$4.0 million annually.

**We face the risk that we may not be able to sell any hotel properties we decide to sell on favorable terms.**

We may decide to sell one or more of our hotel properties from time to time for a variety of reasons. We cannot assure you that we will be able to sell any of the properties we decide to sell on favorable terms or that any such properties will not be sold at a loss.

**Continued significant impairment charges related to our mezzanine loan portfolio could result in our failure to satisfy certain financial ratios, which could trigger additional rights for the holder of our Series B-1 Preferred Stock.**

Our Series B-1 preferred stockholder has certain contractual rights in the event we are unable to satisfy certain financial ratios, and such inability remains uncured for more than 120 days. The end of the 120 day cure period, without a cure or waiver, would severely restrict our ability to operate our company without triggering a covenant violation. Specifically, we would be restricted from issuing preferred securities, incurring additional debt or purchasing or leasing real property without triggering a covenant violation under the articles supplementary governing the Series B-1 Preferred Stock.

The impairment charges incurred in the second quarter of 2009 resulted in an adjusted EBITDA calculation that could have prevented us from satisfying one financial ratio. As a result, without a cure or waiver, we may have been obligated to restrict operations beginning in the third quarter of 2009 or risk triggering a covenant violation. However, Security Capital Preferred Growth Incorporated, the sole holder of our Series B-1 Preferred Stock, reviewed the specific impairment charges and agreed to exclude the impairment charges incurred in the second, third and fourth quarters of 2009 as they impact the financial ratio calculations for the affected periods. If we incur additional impairment charges, there is no assurance that Security Capital will grant a similar waiver in the future.

If a covenant violation does occur and we have not redeemed all of our outstanding Series B-1 Preferred Stock, we will be obligated to pay an additional \$0.05015 per share quarterly dividend on our Series B-1 Preferred Stock (approximately \$374,000 aggregate increase per quarter), and the Series B-1 Preferred Stockholder will gain the right to appoint two board members.

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**Risk factors**

**Complying with REIT requirements may limit our ability to hedge effectively.**

The REIT provisions of the Internal Revenue Code may limit our ability to hedge mortgage securities and related borrowings by requiring us to limit our income and assets in each year from certain hedges, together with any other income not generated from qualified real estate assets, to no more than 25% of our gross income. In addition, we must limit our aggregate income from nonqualified hedging transactions, from our provision of services, and from other non-qualifying sources to no more than 5% of our annual gross income. As a result, we may have to limit our use of advantageous hedging techniques. This could result in greater risks associated with changes in interest rates than we would otherwise want to incur. However, for transactions occurring after July 30, 2008 that we enter into to protect against interest rate risks on debt incurred to acquire qualified REIT assets and for which we identify as hedges for tax purposes, any associated hedging income is excluded from the 95% income test and the 75% income test applicable to a REIT. If we were to violate the 25% or 5% limitations, we may have to pay a penalty tax equal to the amount of income in excess of those limitations multiplied by a fraction intended to reflect our profitability. If we fail to satisfy the REIT gross income tests, unless our failure was due to reasonable cause and not due to willful neglect, we could lose out REIT status for federal income tax purposes.

**We may be subject to taxes in the event our leases are held not to be on an arm's-length basis.**

In the event that leases between us and our taxable REIT subsidiaries are held not to be on an arm's-length basis, we or our taxable REIT subsidiaries could be subject to taxes, and adjustments to the rents could cause us to fail to meet certain REIT income tests. In determining amounts payable by our taxable REIT subsidiaries under our leases, we engaged an accounting firm to prepare a transfer pricing study to ascertain whether the lease terms we established were on an arm's-length basis. The transfer pricing study concluded that the lease terms were consistent with arm's-length terms as required by applicable Treasury Regulations. In 2010, the Internal Revenue Service, or the IRS, audited a taxable REIT subsidiary of ours that leases two of our hotel properties, and recently issued a notice of proposed adjustment that reduced the amount of rent we charged to the taxable REIT subsidiary. We own a 75% interest in the hotel properties and the taxable REIT subsidiary at issue. We disagree with the IRS position, and intend to appeal the proposed adjustment. If the IRS were to prevail in its proposed adjustment, however, our taxable REIT subsidiary would owe approximately \$1.1 million additional U.S. federal income taxes plus possible additional state income taxes, or we could be subject to a 100% excise tax on our share of the amount by which the rent was held to be greater than the arm's-length rate. In addition, if the IRS were to successfully challenge the terms of our leases with any of our taxable REIT subsidiaries for 2007 and later years, we or our taxable REIT subsidiaries could owe additional taxes and we could be required to pay penalty taxes if the effect of such challenges were to cause us to fail to meet certain REIT income tests, which could materially adversely affect us and holders of our Series D Preferred Stock. See "Federal Income Tax Consequences of Our Status as a REIT" and "Taxation of Our Company" in the accompanying prospectus.

*In addition to the risks described above, investors should consider the risks described in our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2009, that are not included above. Those other risk factors are highlighted below.*

Ø *Our lenders may have suffered losses related to the weakening economy and may not be able to fund our borrowings.*

Ø



*Our stock repurchase program could increase the volatility of the price of our common stock and utilizes our current cash on hand.*

Ø *Our long-term business strategy depends on our continued growth. We may be unable to return to a period of business growth, which may adversely affect our operating results.*

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**Risk factors**

- Ø *If we are able to return to a period of business growth, we may be unable to identify additional investments that meet our investment criteria or to acquire the properties we have under contract.*
- Ø *Conflicts of interest could result in our management acting other than in our stockholders' best interest.*
- Ø *Tax indemnification obligations that apply in the event that we sell certain properties could limit our operating flexibility.*
- Ø *Hotel franchise requirements could adversely affect distributions to our stockholders.*
- Ø *Our investments are concentrated in particular segments of a single industry.*
- Ø *We rely on third party property managers, including Remington Lodging, to operate our hotels and for a significant majority of our cash flow.*
- Ø *If we cannot obtain additional financing, our growth will be limited.*
- Ø *We compete with other hotels for guests. We also face competition for acquisitions and sales of lodging properties and of desirable mortgage investments.*
- Ø *Future terrorist attacks similar in nature to the events of September 11, 2001 may negatively affect the performance of our properties, the hotel industry in general, and our future results of operations and financial condition.*
- Ø *We may not be able to sell our investments on favorable terms.*
- Ø *We are subject to general risks associated with operating hotels.*
- Ø *We may have to make significant capital expenditures to maintain our lodging properties.*
- Ø *The hotel business is seasonal, which affects our results of operations from quarter to quarter.*
- Ø *Our hotel investments may be subject to risks relating to potential terrorist activity.*
- Ø *Our development activities may be more costly than we have anticipated.*
- Ø *Mortgage investments that are not United States government insured involve risk of loss.*
- Ø *We invest in non-recourse loans, which will limit our recovery to the value of the mortgaged property.*
- Ø *Investment yields affect our decision whether to originate or purchase investments and the price offered for such investments.*
- Ø *Volatility of values of mortgaged properties may adversely affect our mortgage loans.*

- Ø *Mezzanine loans involve greater risks of loss than senior loans secured by income-producing properties.*
- Ø *Mortgage debt obligations expose us to increased risk of property losses, which could harm our financial condition, cash flow, and ability to satisfy our other debt obligations and pay dividends.*
- Ø *Illiquidity of real estate investments could significantly impede our ability to respond to adverse changes in the performance of our properties and harm our financial condition.*
- Ø *The costs of compliance with or liabilities under environmental laws may harm our operating results.*
- Ø *Our properties and the properties underlying our mortgage loans may contain or develop harmful mold or other environmental dangers, which could lead to liability for adverse health effects and costs of remediating the problem.*
- Ø *Compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act and fire, safety, and other regulations may require us or our borrowers to make unintended expenditures that adversely impact our operating results.*
- Ø *We may experience uninsured or underinsured losses.*

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**Risk factors**

- Ø *If we do not qualify as a REIT, we will be subject to tax as a regular corporation and could face substantial tax liability.*
- Ø *Even if we remain qualified as a REIT, we may face other tax liabilities that reduce our cash flow.*
- Ø *Complying with REIT requirements may cause us to forego otherwise attractive opportunities.*
- Ø *Complying with REIT requirements may limit our ability to hedge effectively.*
- Ø *Complying with REIT requirements may force us to liquidate otherwise attractive investments.*
- Ø *Complying with REIT requirements may force us to borrow to make distributions to stockholders.*
- Ø *We may be subject to adverse legislative or regulatory tax changes that could reduce the market price of our securities.*
- Ø *Your investment in our securities has various federal, state, and local income tax risks that could affect the value of your investment.*
- Ø *There are no assurances of our ability to make distributions in the future.*
- Ø *Failure to maintain an exemption from the Investment Company Act would adversely affect our results of operations.*
- Ø *Our charter does not permit ownership in excess of 9.8% of our capital stock, and attempts to acquire our capital stock in excess of the 9.8% limit without approval from our Board of Directors are void.*
- Ø *Because provisions contained in Maryland law and our charter may have an anti-takeover effect, investors may be prevented from receiving a control premium for their shares.*
- Ø *Offerings of debt securities, which would be senior to our common stock and any preferred stock upon liquidation, or equity securities, which would dilute our existing stockholders' holdings could be senior to our common stock for the purposes of dividend distributions, may adversely affect the market price of our common stock and any preferred stock.*
- Ø *Securities eligible for future sale may have adverse effects on the market price of our securities.*
- Ø *We depend on key personnel with long-standing business relationships. The loss of key personnel could threaten our ability to operate our business successfully.*
- Ø *An increase in market interest rates may have an adverse effect on the market price of our securities.*
- Ø *Our major policies, including our policies and practices with respect to investments, financing, growth, debt capitalization, and REIT qualification and distributions, are determined by our Board of Directors. Although we*

*have no present intention to do so, our Board of Directors may amend or revise these and other policies from time to time without a vote of our stockholders. Accordingly, our stockholders will have limited control over changes in our policies and the changes could harm our business, results of operations, and share price.*

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Forward-looking statements

This prospectus supplement, the accompanying prospectus and the documents incorporated herein by reference, together with other statements and information publicly disseminated by our company, contain certain forward-looking statements within the meaning of Section 27A of the Securities Act of 1933, as amended or the Securities Act, and Section 21E of the Exchange Act, that are subject to risks and uncertainties. We intend such forward-looking statements to be covered by the safe harbor provisions for forward-looking statements contained in the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995 and include this statement for purposes of complying with these safe harbor provisions. These forward-looking statements include information about possible or assumed future results of our business, financial condition, liquidity, results of operations, plans and objectives. Statements regarding the following subjects are forward-looking by their nature:

- Ø our business and investment strategy;
- Ø our projected operating results;
- Ø completion of any pending transactions;
- Ø expected liquidity needs and sources (including capital expenditures and our ability to obtain financing or raise capital);
- Ø our understanding of our competition;
- Ø market and industry trends;
- Ø projected revenues and expenses; and
- Ø the impact of technology on our operations and business.

The forward-looking statements are based on our beliefs, assumptions and expectations of our future performance, taking into account all information currently available to us. These beliefs, assumptions and expectations can change as a result of many possible events or factors, not all of which are known to us. If a change occurs, our business, financial condition, liquidity, results of operations, plans and objectives may vary materially from those expressed in our forward-looking statements. You should carefully consider this risk when you make an investment decision concerning our Series D Preferred Stock. Additionally, the following factors could cause actual results to vary from our forward-looking statements:

- Ø the factors discussed in this prospectus supplement, the accompanying prospectus and in the information incorporated herein by reference, including those set forth under the sections in such documents titled Risk Factors, Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations, Business and Properties:
- Ø general volatility of the capital markets and the market price of our securities;
- Ø changes in our business or investment strategy;
- Ø availability, terms and deployment of capital;

- Ø availability of qualified personnel;
- Ø changes in our industry and the market in which we operate, interest rates or the general economy; and
- Ø the degree and nature of our competition.

When we use the words will likely result, may, anticipate, estimate, should, expect, believe, intend, or similar expressions, we intend to identify forward-looking statements. You should not place undue reliance on these forward-looking statements. Our forward-looking statements speak only as of the date of this prospectus supplement or as of the date they are made, as applicable,

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and except as otherwise required by federal securities laws, we are not obligated to publicly update or revise any forward-looking statements, whether as a result of new information, future events or otherwise.

Use of proceeds

We expect that the net proceeds to us from the sale of the Series D Preferred Stock offered hereby (after deducting the underwriting discounts and commissions and our estimated offering expenses) will be \$73,953,047. We intend to use the net proceeds to repay a portion of our outstanding borrowings under our existing senior credit facility, although we may also use a portion of the net proceeds to redeem a portion of our outstanding Series B-1 Preferred Stock or for other general corporate purposes.

The outstanding borrowings under our existing senior credit facility to be repaid with the net proceeds of this offering, bear interest at a rate of LIBOR plus between 2.75% and 3.5% per annum, depending on our current loan-to-value ratio. Our senior credit facility matures in April 2011, although we may, and expect to, extend the maturity date of that facility to April 2012. As of the date of this prospectus supplement, we had \$155 million of outstanding indebtedness under that facility, bearing interest at a rate the rate of 3.26% per annum.

An affiliate of UBS Securities LLC acts as a lender under our existing senior credit facility. As described above, we intend to use the net proceeds of this offering to repay borrowings outstanding under our senior credit facility, and such affiliate of UBS Securities LLC therefore may receive a portion of the net proceeds from this offering through the repayment of those borrowings.

We currently have 7,447,865 shares of Series B-1 Preferred Stock outstanding. We are required to pay the Series B-1 Preferred Stock holders cumulative quarterly cash dividends of \$0.14 per share, which equates to a 5.561% annual return on the liquidation value of the Series B-1 Preferred Stock. At any time if our quarterly common stock dividend is greater than \$0.14 per share, the Series B-1 Preferred Stock holders would be entitled to receive a quarterly dividend per share equal to that paid to the common stockholders. We may elect to use all or a portion of the proceeds of this offering to redeem our Series B-1 Preferred Stock. We have the right to redeem all or a portion of the outstanding Series B-1 Preferred Stock at any time for a redemption price of \$10.07 per share plus all accumulated, accrued and unpaid dividends through the redemption date. To effect such redemption, we must give the Series B-1 Preferred Stockholder not less than 30 days advance written notice. The aggregate redemption price if we elect to redeem all outstanding Series B-1 Preferred Stock will be approximately \$75.0 million before accrued and unpaid dividends. Holders of the Series B-1 Preferred Stock may elect to convert their shares into shares of our common stock at any time, including after we give notice of redemption, at a conversion price of \$10.07 per share, compared to the closing price of our common stock on the NYSE as of September 13, 2010 of \$9.01 per share. We do not have the right to redeem the common stock into which the Series B-1 may be converted.

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Ratios of earnings to combined fixed charges and preferred stock dividends

The following table sets forth our historical ratio of earnings to combined fixed charges and preferred stock dividends, as adjusted for discontinued operations and other matters as described below for each of the periods indicated:

	<b>Six months ended</b>		<b>Year ended December 31,</b>			
	<b>June 30, 2010</b>	<b>2009</b>	<b>2008</b>	<b>2007</b>	<b>2006</b>	<b>2005</b>
Ratio of earnings to combined fixed charges and preferred stock dividends	1.15	*	1.36	*	1.29	*

\* *For these periods, earnings were less than fixed charges and preferred stock dividends, and the coverage deficiency was approximately \$292,958,000 for the year ended December 31, 2009, \$25,029,000 for the year ended December 31, 2007 and \$7,650,000 for the year ended December 31, 2005.*

For purposes of computing the ratio of earnings to combined fixed charges and preferred stock dividends and the amount of coverage deficiency, earnings are computed as pre-tax income from continuing operations before equity method earnings or losses from equity investees plus: (a) fixed charges less preferred unit distribution requirements included in fixed charges but not deducted in the determination of earnings, as adjusted for discontinued operations, and (b) distributed income of equity investees. Fixed charges consist of (a) interest expenses as no interest was capitalized in the periods presented, (b) amortization of debt issuance costs, discount or premium, (c) the interest component of rent expense, and (d) preferred dividends requirements of a majority-owned subsidiary.

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## Capitalization

The following table sets forth our capitalization as of June 30, 2010 on a historical basis and as adjusted to give effect to the consummation of this offering and the use of the net proceeds therefrom (assuming the application of estimated net proceeds of approximately \$73,953,000 (after our offering expenses) to repay outstanding borrowings under our senior credit facility).

You should read the information included in the table below in conjunction with our consolidated financial statements and the related notes included in our Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the quarter ended June 30, 2010, filed with the SEC and incorporated by reference in this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus.

	<b>June 30, 2010</b>	
	<b>Actual</b>	<b>As adjusted</b>
	<b>(in thousands) (unaudited)</b>	
<b>Debt:</b>		
Indebtedness	\$ 2,769,024	\$ 2,695,071
Preferred stock, \$0.01 par value:		
Series B-1 Cumulative Convertible Redeemable Preferred Stock, 7,447,865 shares issued and outstanding	75,000	75,000
Redeemable noncontrolling interests in operating partnership	102,771	102,771
<b>Equity:</b>		
Preferred stock, \$0.01 par value, 50,000,000 shares authorized:		
Series A Cumulative Preferred Stock, 1,487,900 shares issued and outstanding	15	15
Series D Cumulative Preferred Stock for the actual column, 5,666,797 shares previously issued and outstanding and, for the as adjusted column 8,966,797 shares issued and outstanding, including the 3,300,000 shares being offered hereby	57	90
Common Stock, \$0.01 par value, 200,000,000 shares authorized, 123,026,246 shares issued and 51,137,900 shares outstanding at June 30, 2010	1,230	1,230
Additional paid-in capital	1,439,819	1,513,739
Accumulated other comprehensive loss	(908)	(908)
Accumulated deficit	(431,428)	(431,428)
Treasury stock, at cost, 71,888,346 shares at June 30, 2010	(228,296)	(228,296)
Noncontrolling interests in consolidated joint ventures	17,357	17,357
<b>Total Equity</b>	<b>797,846</b>	<b>871,799</b>
<b>Total Capitalization</b>	<b>\$ 3,744,641</b>	<b>\$ 3,744,641</b>



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Description of the Series D preferred stock

*The following summary of the terms and provisions of the Series D Preferred Stock does not purport to be complete and is qualified in its entirety by reference to our charter and the articles supplementary establishing the Series D Preferred Stock, each of which is an exhibit to the registration statement of which this prospectus supplement is a part. This description of the particular terms of the Series D Preferred Stock supplements, and to the extent inconsistent therewith, supersedes, the description of the general terms and provisions of the Series D Preferred Stock set forth in the accompanying prospectus.*

**GENERAL**

We are authorized to issue up to 50 million shares of preferred stock from time to time, in one or more series or classes, with such designations, preferences, conversion or other rights, voting powers, restrictions, limitations as to dividends or other distributions, qualifications and terms or conditions of redemption, in each case, if any, as are permitted by Maryland law and as our board of directors may determine prior to issuance thereof by adoption of articles supplementary to our charter without any further vote or action by our stockholders. See Description of Our Preferred Stock in the accompanying prospectus.

On June 2, 2007, our board of directors adopted resolutions establishing the terms of the Series D Preferred Stock consisting of 8,000,000 shares. The board of directors also adopted articles supplementary to our charter establishing the number and fixing the terms, preferences, conversion or other rights, voting powers, restrictions, limitations as to dividends or other distributions, qualifications and terms or conditions of redemption of the Series D Preferred Stock. We subsequently repurchased 2,333,203 shares of the Series D Preferred Stock and such shares were restored to the status of authorized but unissued preferred stock, without discretion as to class or series. As of the date of this prospectus supplement, 5,666,797 shares of Series D Preferred Stock are outstanding.

Prior to the completion of this offering, our board of directors will adopt resolutions to classify and designate additional shares of authorized, but unissued, preferred stock as Series D Preferred Stock and to authorize the issuance thereof. The Series D Preferred Stock currently outstanding is listed on the NYSE under the symbol AHTPrD, and the additional shares sold in this offering are expected to be listed under the existing symbol, will have the same CUSIP number as the currently outstanding shares of Series D Preferred Stock, and will trade interchangeably with the currently outstanding shares of Series D Preferred Stock immediately upon settlement.

**RANKING**

The Series D Preferred Stock ranks, with respect to dividend rights and rights upon liquidation, dissolution or winding up of our company, (i) prior or senior to any class or series of our common stock and any other class or series of equity securities, if the holders of Series D Preferred Stock are entitled to the receipt of dividends or of amounts distributable upon liquidation, dissolution or winding up in preference or priority to the holders of shares of such class or series; (ii) on a parity with each of our outstanding series of preferred stock (our Series A Cumulative Preferred Stock and our Series B-1 Cumulative Convertible Redeemable Preferred Stock) and any other class or series of our equity securities issued in the future if, pursuant to the specific terms of such class or series of equity securities, the holders of such class or series of equity securities and the Series D Preferred Stock are entitled to the receipt of dividends and of amounts distributable upon liquidation, dissolution or winding up in proportion to their respective amounts of accrued and unpaid dividends per share or liquidation preferences, without preference or priority one over

the other; (iii) junior to any class or series of our equity securities if, pursuant to the specific terms of such class or series, the holders of such class or series are entitled to the receipt of dividends or amounts distributable upon liquidation, dissolution or winding up in preference or priority to the holders of the Series D Preferred Stock; and (iv) junior to all

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of our existing and future indebtedness. The term equity securities does not include convertible debt securities, which will rank senior to the Series D Preferred Stock prior to conversion.

We will contribute the proceeds from the sale of the Series D Preferred Stock from this offering to our operating partnership in exchange for preferred partnership units in our operating partnership having the same rights and preferences as the Series D Preferred Stock, referred to as Series D Preferred Units. Our operating partnership will be required to make all required distributions on the Series D Preferred Units prior to any distribution of cash or assets to the holders of common partnership units or to the holders of any other equity interest of our operating partnership, except for any other series of preferred units ranking on a parity with the Series D Preferred Units as to distributions and liquidation, except for any preferred units ranking senior to the Series D Preferred Units as to distributions and liquidations that we may issue and except for dividends required to enable us to maintain our qualification as a REIT.

**DIVIDENDS**

Holders of Series D Preferred Stock are entitled to receive, when and as authorized by our board of directors and declared by us, out of funds legally available for payment, cash dividends at the rate of 8.45% per year on the \$25.00 liquidation preference (equivalent to \$2.1125 per year per share); provided, however, that during any period of time that both (i) the Series D Preferred Stock is not listed on the NYSE, NYSE Amex, or NASDAQ, or listed on an exchange that is a successor to the NYSE, NYSE Amex or NASDAQ, and (ii) we are not subject to the reporting requirements of the Exchange Act, and any shares of Series D Preferred Stock are outstanding, the rate at which cash dividends will accrue on the Series D Preferred Stock will increase to 9.45% of the \$25.00 per share liquidation preference per year (equivalent to an annual dividend rate of \$2.3625 per share), which we refer to as the Special Distribution. Such dividends will be cumulative from the date of original issuance, or, with respect to the Special Distribution, if applicable, from the date following the date on which both (i) the Series D Preferred Stock is not listed on the NYSE, NYSE Amex or NASDAQ, or is not listed on an exchange that is a successor to the NYSE, NYSE Amex or NASDAQ, and (ii) we are not subject to the reporting requirements of Section 13 or 15(d) of the Exchange Act, whether or not in any dividend period or periods (x) such dividends shall be declared, (y) there shall be funds legally available for the payment of such dividends or (z) any agreement prohibits our payment of such dividends, and shall be payable quarterly on the 15th day of January, April, July and October of each year (or, if not a business day, the next succeeding business day). The first dividend on the Series D Preferred Stock sold in this offering will be paid on October 15, 2010, and will be for a full quarter and in the amount of \$0.528125. Any dividend payable on the Series D Preferred Stock for any partial dividend period will be computed on the basis of twelve 30-day months and a 360-day year. Dividends will be payable in arrears to holders of record as they appear on our records at the close of business on the last day of each of March, June, September and December, as the case may be, immediately preceding the applicable dividend payment date. Holders of Series D Preferred Stock will not be entitled to receive any dividends in excess of cumulative dividends on the Series D Preferred Stock. No interest will be paid in respect of any dividend payment or payments on the Series D Preferred Stock that may be in arrears. The Special Distribution, if applicable, shall cease to accrue on the date following the earlier of (i) the listing of the Series D Preferred Stock on the NYSE, NYSE Amex or NASDAQ, or listing on an exchange that is a successor to the NYSE, NYSE Amex or NASDAQ, or (ii) we become subject to the reporting requirements of the Exchange Act.

When dividends are not paid in full upon the Series D Preferred Stock or any other class or series of parity stock, or a sum sufficient for such payment is not set apart, all dividends declared upon the Series D Preferred Stock and any other class or series of parity stock shall be declared ratably in proportion to the respective amounts of dividends accumulated, accrued and unpaid on the Series D Preferred Stock and accumulated, accrued and unpaid on such parity stock. Except as set forth in the

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preceding sentence, unless dividends on the Series D Preferred Stock equal to the full amount of accumulated, accrued and unpaid dividends have been or contemporaneously are declared and paid, or declared and a sum sufficient for the payment thereof set apart for such payment for all past dividend periods, no dividends shall be declared or paid or set aside for payment by us with respect to any class or series of parity stock. Unless full cumulative dividends on the Series D Preferred Stock have been paid or declared and set apart for payment for all past dividend periods, no dividends (other than dividends paid in shares junior in rank to the Series D Preferred Stock or options, warrants or rights to subscribe for or purchase such junior stock) shall be declared or paid or set apart for payment by us with respect to any junior stock, nor shall any junior stock or parity stock be redeemed, purchased or otherwise acquired (except for purposes of an employee benefit plan) for any consideration, or any monies be paid to or made available for a sinking fund for the redemption of any junior stock or parity stock (except by conversion or exchange for junior stock, or options, warrants or rights to subscribe for or purchase junior stock), nor shall any other cash or property be paid or distributed to or for the benefit of holders of junior stock. Notwithstanding the foregoing, we shall not be prohibited from (i) declaring or paying or setting apart for payment any dividend or distribution on any parity or junior stock or (ii) redeeming, purchasing or otherwise acquiring any parity or junior stock, in each case, if such declaration, payment, redemption, purchase or other acquisition is necessary to maintain our qualification as a REIT.

Our lines of credit contain restrictive covenants which may limit, among other things, our ability to pay dividends or make other restricted payments. Other indebtedness that we may incur in the future may contain financial or other covenants more restrictive than those applicable to our existing lines of credit.

No dividends on Series D Preferred Stock shall be authorized by our board of directors or declared or paid or set apart for payment at such time as the terms and provisions of any agreement, including any agreement relating to our indebtedness, prohibit such declaration, payment or setting apart for payment or provides that such declaration, payment or setting apart for payment would constitute a breach thereof or a default thereunder, or if such declaration or payment shall be restricted or prohibited by law.

If, for any taxable year, we elect to designate as capital gain dividends (as defined in Section 857 of the Internal Revenue Code) any portion of the dividends (as determined for federal income tax purposes) paid or made available for the year to holders of all classes of capital stock, then the portion of the capital gains amount that shall be allocable to the holders of Series D Preferred Stock shall be the amount that the total dividends (as determined for federal income tax purposes) paid or made available to the holders of the Series D Preferred Stock for the year bears to the total dividends. We may elect to retain and pay income tax on our net long-term capital gains. In such a case, the holders of Series D Preferred Stock would include in income an appropriate share of our undistributed long-term capital gains, as designated by us.

In determining whether a distribution (other than upon voluntary or involuntary liquidation, dissolution or winding up of our company), by dividend, redemption or otherwise, is permitted, amounts that would be needed, if we were to be dissolved at the time of the distribution, to satisfy the liquidation preference of the Series D Preferred Stock (as discussed below) will not be added to our total liabilities.

**LIQUIDATION PREFERENCE**

Upon any voluntary or involuntary liquidation, dissolution or winding up of our company, before any payment or distribution shall be made to or set apart for the holders of any junior stock, the holders of Series D Preferred Stock shall be entitled to receive a liquidation preference of \$25.00 per share, plus an amount equal to all accumulated, accrued and unpaid dividends (whether or not earned or declared) to the date of final distribution to such holders.



Until the holders of the Series D Preferred Stock have been paid the liquidation preference in full, plus an amount equal to all accumulated, accrued and unpaid

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dividends (whether or not earned or declared) to the date of final distribution to such holders, no payment shall be made to any holder of junior stock upon the liquidation, dissolution or winding up of our company. If upon any liquidation, dissolution or winding up of our company, our assets, or proceeds thereof, distributable among the holders of Series D Preferred Stock shall be insufficient to pay in full the above described preferential amount and liquidating payments on any other shares of any class or series of parity stock, then such assets, or the proceeds thereof, shall be distributed among the holders of Series D Preferred Stock and any such other parity stock ratably in the same proportion as the respective amounts that would be payable on such Series D Preferred Stock and any such other parity stock if all amounts payable thereon were paid in full. Our voluntary or involuntary liquidation, dissolution or winding up shall not include our consolidation or merger with or into one or more entities, a sale or transfer of all or substantially all of our assets or a statutory stock exchange.

Upon any liquidation, dissolution or winding up of our company, after payment of the liquidating distribution shall have been made in full to the holders of Series D Preferred Stock as described above, the holders of the Series D Preferred Stock will have no right or claim to our remaining assets.

**SPECIAL OPTIONAL REDEMPTION**

If at any time both, (i) the Series D Preferred Stock ceases to be listed on the NYSE, NYSE Amex or NASDAQ, or listed on an exchange that is a successor to the NYSE, NYSE Amex or NASDAQ and (ii) we cease to be subject to the reporting requirement of the Exchange Act, but the Series D Preferred Stock is still outstanding, then the Series D Preferred Stock will be redeemable at our option, in whole but not in part, within 90 days of the date upon which the shares cease to be listed or quoted and we cease to be subject to the reporting requirements of the Exchange Act. In such event, the shares of Series D Preferred Stock will be redeemable for a cash redemption price of \$25.00 per share plus accrued and unpaid dividends, if any, to the redemption date.

**OPTIONAL REDEMPTION**

Except with respect to the special optional redemption described above and in certain limited circumstances relating to our maintenance of our ability to qualify as a REIT as described in Restrictions on Ownership, we cannot redeem the Series D Preferred Stock prior to July 18, 2012. On and after July 18, 2012, we may redeem the Series D Preferred Stock, in whole or from time to time in part, at a cash redemption price of \$25.00 per share plus all accrued and unpaid dividends to the date fixed for redemption. The redemption date shall be selected by us and shall not be less than 30 days nor more than 60 days after the date we send notice of redemption. If full cumulative dividends on all outstanding shares of Series D Preferred Stock have not been paid or declared and set apart for payment, no Series D Preferred Stock may be redeemed unless all outstanding Series D Preferred Stock are simultaneously redeemed; provided, however, that we shall not be prevented from purchasing Series D Preferred Stock pursuant to our charter or otherwise in order to ensure that we remain qualified as a REIT for federal income tax purposes. Additionally, unless full cumulative dividends on all outstanding shares of Series D Preferred Stock have been paid or declared and set apart for payment, we may not purchase or otherwise acquire directly or indirectly for any consideration, nor shall any monies be paid to or made available for a sinking fund for the redemption of, any shares of Series D Preferred Stock (except by conversion into or exchange for junior stock); provided, however, that we shall not be prevented from purchasing Series D Preferred Stock pursuant to our charter or otherwise in order to ensure that we remain qualified as a REIT for federal income tax purposes.

Notice of redemption of the Series D Preferred Stock shall be mailed to each holder of record of the shares to be redeemed by first class mail, postage prepaid at such holder's address as the same appears on our stock records. Any

notice which was mailed as described above shall be conclusively presumed to have been duly given on the date mailed whether or not the holder receives the notice. In addition to any information required by law or by the applicable rules of the exchange upon which the Series D

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Preferred Stock may be listed or admitted to trading, each notice shall state: (i) the redemption date; (ii) the redemption price; (iii) the number of shares of Series D Preferred Stock to be redeemed; and (iv) the place or places where certificates for such shares of Series D Preferred Stock are to be surrendered for cash. Any such redemption may be made conditional on such factors as may be determined by our board of directors and as set forth in the notice of redemption. From and after the redemption date, dividends on the Series D Preferred Stock to be redeemed will cease to accrue, such shares shall no longer be deemed to be outstanding and all rights of the holders thereof shall cease (except the right to receive the cash payable upon such redemption).

The Series D Preferred Stock has no stated maturity and will not be subject to any sinking fund or mandatory redemption provisions except as provided under Restrictions on Ownership.

Subject to applicable law and the limitation on purchases when dividends on the Series D Preferred Stock are in arrears, we may, at any time and from time to time, purchase Series D Preferred Stock in the open market, by tender or by private agreement.

Any shares of Series D Preferred Stock redeemed, purchased or otherwise acquired by us in any manner whatsoever shall become our authorized but unissued and unclassified preferred stock and may be reissued or reclassified by us in accordance with the applicable provisions of our charter.

**VOTING RIGHTS**

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

If and whenever dividends on any shares of Series D Preferred Stock or any series or class of parity stock shall be in arrears for six or more quarterly periods (whether or not consecutive), the number of directors then constituting our board of directors shall be increased by two and the holders of such Series D Preferred Stock (voting together as a single class with all other parity stock of any other class or series which is entitled to similar voting rights) will be entitled to vote for the election of the two additional directors at any annual meeting of shareholders or at a special meeting of the holders of the Series D Preferred Stock and of any other voting preferred stock called for that purpose. We must call such special meeting upon the request of the holders of record of 10% or more of the Series D Preferred Stock. Whenever dividends in arrears on outstanding Series D Preferred Stock and any other voting preferred stock shall have been paid and dividends thereon for the current quarterly dividend period shall have been paid or declared and set apart for payment, then the right of the holders of the Series D Preferred Stock to elect such additional two directors shall cease and the terms of office of such directors shall terminate and the number of directors constituting the board of directors shall be reduced accordingly.

The affirmative vote or consent of at least 66<sup>2</sup>/<sub>3</sub>% of the votes entitled to be cast by the holders of the outstanding shares of Series D Preferred Stock and the holders of all other classes or series of preferred stock entitled to vote on such matters, voting as a single class, in addition to any other vote required by the charter or Maryland law, will be required to: (i) authorize the creation of, the increase in the authorized amount of, or the issuance of any shares of any class of stock ranking senior to the Series D Preferred Stock or any security convertible into shares of any class of such senior stock or (ii) amend, alter or repeal any provision of, or add any provision to, our charter, including the articles supplementary establishing the Series D Preferred Stock, whether by merger, consolidation or other business combination or otherwise, if such action would materially adversely affect the voting powers, rights or preferences of the holders of the Series D Preferred Stock. Neither (i) an amendment of our charter to authorize, create, or increase the authorized amount of junior stock or any shares of any class of parity stock, including additional Series D

Preferred Stock nor (ii) any merger, consolidation or other business combination, so long as the Series D Preferred Stock remains outstanding with the terms thereof materially unchanged, taking into account that upon the occurrence of such event, we may not be the surviving entity, shall be deemed to materially adversely affect the powers, rights or preferences

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of the holders of Series D Preferred Stock. No such vote of the holders of Series D Preferred Stock as described above shall be required if provision is made to redeem all Series D Preferred Stock at or prior to the time such amendment, alteration or repeal is to take effect, or when the issuance of any such shares or convertible securities is to be made, as the case may be.

With respect to the exercise of the above described voting rights, each share of Series D Preferred Stock shall have one vote per share, except that when any other class or series of preferred stock shall have the right to vote with the Series D Preferred Stock as a single class, then the Series D Preferred Stock and such other class or series shall have one vote per \$25.00 of stated liquidation preference.

**CONVERSION**

The Series D Preferred Stock is not convertible into or exchangeable for any of our other securities or property.

**INFORMATION RIGHTS**

During any period where we are required to pay a Special Distribution, we will (i) transmit by mail or other permissible means under the Exchange Act to all holders of Series D Preferred Stock as their names and addresses appear in our record books and without cost to such holders, copies of the annual reports and quarterly reports that we would have been required to file with the SEC pursuant to Section 13 or 15(d) of the Exchange Act if we were subject thereto (other than any exhibits that would have been required), and (ii) within 15 days following written request, supply copies of such reports to any prospective holder of the Series D Preferred Stock. We will mail (or otherwise provide) the reports to the holders of Series D Preferred Stock within 15 days after the respective dates by which we would have been required to file such reports with the SEC if we were subject to Section 13 or 15(d) of the Exchange Act.

**RESTRICTIONS ON OWNERSHIP**

For us to maintain our qualification as a REIT, our shares of capital stock must be beneficially owned by 100 or more persons during at least 335 days of a taxable year of 12 months (or during a proportionate part of a shorter taxable year). Also, not more than 50% in value of our outstanding shares of capital stock may be owned, directly or indirectly, by five or fewer individuals (as defined in the Internal Revenue Code to include certain entities) during the last half of a taxable year. Furthermore, if any stockholder or group of stockholders of any lessee of our hotels, owns, actually or constructively, 10% or more of our shares of capital stock, such lessee could become a related-party tenant of ours, which likely would result in the loss of our qualification as a REIT. To ensure that we will comply with those share ownership rules, our charter contains provisions that restrict the ownership and transfer of our shares of capital stock. With certain exceptions, our charter prohibits direct or constructive ownership by any person of more than 9.8% (in value or number of shares, whichever is more restrictive) of the outstanding shares of our common stock, or, with respect to any class or series of shares of preferred stock, 9.8% (in value or number of shares, whichever is more restrictive) of the outstanding shares of such class or series of preferred stock, including the Series D Preferred Stock. See [Description of our Capital Stock Restrictions on Ownership and Transfer](#) in the accompanying prospectus for additional discussion.

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Additional federal income tax consequences

**WITHHOLDING PAYMENTS TO FOREIGN FINANCIAL ENTITIES AND OTHER FOREIGN ENTITIES**

Under recently enacted legislation, certain foreign financial institutions, investment funds and other non-U.S. persons are subject to information reporting requirements with respect to their direct and indirect U.S. shareholders and/or U.S. accountholders. A 30% withholding tax would be imposed on certain payments that are made after December 31, 2012 to a non-U.S. person that is subject to such requirements and fails to comply with those requirements. Such payments would include our dividends and the gross proceeds from the sale or other disposition of our Series D Preferred Stock. We urge non-U.S. holders, as defined in the accompanying prospectus under Federal Income Tax Consequences of Our Status as a REIT Taxation of Non-U.S. Holders, to consult their tax advisors regarding the possible implications of this legislation on their investment in our Series D Preferred Stock.

**FUTURE TAX ON NET INVESTMENT INCOME OF CERTAIN PERSONS**

For taxable years beginning after December 31, 2012, newly enacted legislation is scheduled to impose a 3.8% tax on the net investment income of certain individuals, and on the undistributed net investment income of certain estates and trusts. Among other items, net investment income generally includes gross income from interest, dividends and net gains from certain property sales, less certain deductions. Prospective investors are urged to consult with their tax advisors regarding the possible implications of the legislation in their particular circumstances.

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## Underwriting

Under the terms and subject to the conditions contained in an underwriting agreement dated the date of this prospectus supplement, the underwriters named below, for whom UBS Securities LLC and Citigroup Global Markets Inc. are acting as representatives, have severally agreed to purchase, and we have agreed to sell to the underwriters, the number of shares of our Series D Preferred Stock indicated in the table below:

<b>Name</b>	<b>Number of shares</b>
UBS Securities LLC	1,155,000
Citigroup Global Markets Inc.	1,155,000
Barclays Capital Inc.	330,000
Deutsche Bank Securities Inc.	330,000
FBR Capital Markets & Co.	330,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>3,300,000</b>

The underwriters are offering the shares of our Series D Preferred Stock subject to their acceptance of the shares from us and subject to prior sale. The underwriting agreement provides that the obligations of the several underwriters to pay for and accept delivery of the shares of Series D Preferred Stock offered by us pursuant to this prospectus supplement are subject to the approval of certain legal matters by their counsel and to certain other conditions. The underwriters are obligated to take and pay for all of the shares of Series D Preferred Stock offered by us pursuant to this prospectus supplement if any such shares are taken.

The underwriters initially propose to offer the shares of our Series D Preferred Stock directly to the public at the public offering price listed on the cover page of this prospectus supplement, and to dealers at that price less a concession not in excess of \$0.50 per share. The underwriters may allow, and these dealers may re-allow, a concession of not more than \$0.45 per share to other dealers. After the initial offering of our Series D Preferred Stock, the offering price and other selling terms may from time to time be varied by the representative.

**DISCOUNTS AND COMMISSIONS**

The following table shows the per share and total underwriting discount to be paid by us in connection with this offering.

	<b>Per share</b>	<b>Total</b>
Underwriting discounts and commissions paid by us	\$ 0.730107	\$ 2,409,353

The expenses of this offering payable by us, not including the underwriting discount, are estimated to be approximately \$125,000, which includes legal, accounting and printing costs.

**LOCK-UP AGREEMENTS**



Pursuant to the underwriting agreement, we have agreed that subject to certain exceptions we will not, during the period beginning on the date of this prospectus supplement and ending 60 days thereafter, without the prior written consent of the representatives on behalf of the underwriters:

Ø offer, pledge, sell, contract to sell, sell any option or contract to purchase, purchase any option or contract to sell, grant any option, right or warrant to purchase, or otherwise dispose of or transfer, directly or indirectly, any additional shares of Series D Preferred Stock or securities similar to or ranking on par with or senior to the Series D Preferred Stock or any securities convertible into or

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**Underwriting**

exercisable or exchangeable for Series D Preferred Stock or such similar, parity or senior securities, including preferred units in our operating partnership;

- Ø enter into any swap or other arrangement that transfers to another, in whole or in part, any of the economic consequences of ownership of Series D Preferred Stock or such similar, parity or senior securities; or
- Ø file any registration statement with the SEC relating to the offering of Series D Preferred Stock or such similar, parity or senior securities or securities convertible into or exercisable or exchangeable for Series D Preferred Stock or such similar, parity or senior securities.

Notwithstanding the foregoing, if, subject to certain exceptions, (i) during the last 17 days of the 60-day restricted period we issue an earnings release or material news or a material event relating to us occurs, or (ii) prior to the expiration of the 60-day restricted period, we announce that we will release earnings results during the 16-day period beginning on the last day of the 60-day period, the above restrictions continue to apply until the expiration of the 18-day period beginning on the issuance of the earnings release or the occurrence of the material news or event.

The representatives have informed us that they do not have a present intent or arrangement to release us from these lock-up provisions. Any release will be considered on a case-by-case basis. The factors that the representatives may consider in deciding whether to release the securities may include the length of time before the lockup expires, the number of shares of preferred stock or other securities involved, the reason for the requested release, market conditions, the trading price of our Series D Preferred Stock, and historical trading volumes of our Series D Preferred Stock.

The underwriters have informed us that in order to facilitate this offering of our Series D Preferred Stock they may engage in transactions that stabilize, maintain or otherwise affect the price of the Series D Preferred Stock. Specifically, the underwriters may sell more shares than they are obligated to purchase under the underwriting agreement, creating a short position. In this offering, because we have not granted the underwriters an over-allotment option to purchase additional shares, any such short position will be a naked short position. The underwriters must close out any naked short position by purchasing shares in the open market. The underwriters have informed us that a naked short position is more likely to be created if the underwriters are concerned that there may be downward pressure on the price of our Series D Preferred Stock in the open market after pricing that could adversely affect investors who purchase in this offering. In addition, to stabilize the price of our Series D Preferred Stock, the underwriters may bid for, and purchase, shares of our Series D Preferred Stock in the open market. Finally, the underwriting syndicate may reclaim selling concessions allowed to an underwriter or a dealer for distributing our Series D Preferred Stock in this offering, if the underwriting syndicate repurchases previously distributed shares of our Series D Preferred Stock to cover underwriting syndicate short positions or to stabilize the price of our Series D Preferred Stock. Any of these activities may stabilize or maintain the market price of our Series D Preferred Stock above independent market levels. The underwriters are not required to engage in these activities and may end any of these activities at any time.

**OTHER RELATIONSHIPS**

Certain of the underwriters and their respective affiliates are full service financial institutions engaged in various activities, which may include securities trading, commercial and investment banking, financial advisory, investment management, principal investment, hedging, financing and brokerage activities. Some of the underwriters or their

affiliates from time to time perform investment banking and other financial services for us and our affiliates for which they receive advisory or transaction fees, as applicable, plus out-of-pocket expenses, of the nature and in amounts customary in the industry for these financial services. The lenders under our senior credit facility include an affiliate of UBS Securities LLC, one of the underwriters participating in this offering. We may use a portion of the proceeds from

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**Underwriting**

this offering to reduce our current borrowings under our senior credit facility, which proceeds would be received by such affiliate of UBS Securities LLC. We have in the past obtained long-term mortgage financings on our owned property investments from certain of the underwriters or their affiliates, and we expect to continue to do so in the future. In the ordinary course of their various business activities, the underwriters and their respective affiliates may make or hold a broad array of investments and actively trade debt and equity securities (or related derivative securities) and financial instruments (including bank loans) for their own account and for the accounts of their customers and may at any time hold long and short positions in such securities and instruments. Such investment and securities activities may involve securities and instruments of the issuer.

**LISTING ON THE NEW YORK STOCK EXCHANGE**

Our Series D Preferred Stock currently trades on the New York Stock Exchange under the symbol AHTPrD. The shares of Series D Preferred Stock sold in this offering are expected to be listed on the NYSE under the existing symbol.

**INDEMNIFICATION OF THE UNDERWRITERS**

We have agreed to indemnify the underwriters against certain liabilities, including liabilities under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, or to contribute to payments the underwriters may be required to make in connection with such liabilities.

**Legal matters**

Certain legal matters in connection with this offering will be passed upon for us by Andrews Kurth LLP, Dallas, Texas. In addition, the description of federal income tax consequences contained in the section of this prospectus supplement entitled Additional Federal Income Tax Consequences and the section in the accompanying prospectus entitled Federal Income Tax Consequences of Our Status as a REIT is based on the opinion of Andrews Kurth LLP. Certain legal matters related to the offering will be passed upon for the underwriters by Clifford Chance US LLP, New York, New York. Certain Maryland law matters in connection with this offering will be passed upon for us by Hogan Lovells US LLP, Baltimore, Maryland. Andrews Kurth LLP and Clifford Chance US LLP will rely on the opinion of Hogan Lovells US LLP as to certain matters of Maryland law.

**Experts**

The consolidated financial statements of Ashford Hospitality Trust, Inc. and subsidiaries included in its Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2009 (including schedules appearing therein), and the effectiveness of Ashford Hospitality Trust, Inc. and subsidiaries internal control over financial reporting as of December 31, 2009, have been audited by Ernst & Young LLP, independent registered public accounting firm, as set forth in their reports thereon, included therein, and incorporated herein by reference. Such consolidated financial statements are incorporated herein by reference in reliance upon such reports given on the authority of such firm as experts in accounting and auditing.

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**PROSPECTUS**

**\$500,000,000**

**COMMON STOCK**

**PREFERRED STOCK**

**DEBT SECURITIES**

**WARRANTS**

**RIGHTS**

Under this prospectus, we may offer, from time to time, in one or more series or classes, the securities described in this prospectus. The total offering price of securities described in this prospectus will not exceed \$500,000,000.

We will provide the specific terms of any securities we may offer in a supplement to this prospectus. You should carefully read this prospectus and any applicable prospectus supplement before deciding to invest in these securities. Our common stock is listed on the New York Stock Exchange under the symbol AHT.

We may offer and sell these securities to or through one or more underwriters, dealers and agents, or directly to purchasers, on a continuous or delayed basis. The prospectus describes some of the general terms that may apply to these securities. The specific terms of any securities to be offered will be described in a supplement to this prospectus.

**Investing in our securities involves risks. See Risk Factors on page 2 for information regarding risks associated with an investment in our securities.**

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

The date of this prospectus is January 25, 2010.

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

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**OUR COMPANY**

We are a Maryland corporation that invests in the hospitality industry at all levels of the capital structure. As of September 30, 2009, our hotel portfolio includes 103 hotel properties in 27 states and Washington D.C., six of which we own through equity investments with joint venture partners. Our hotels are operated under the widely recognized upper-upscale brands of Crown Plaza, Hilton, Hyatt, Marriott, Sheraton and Westin. Also, as of September 30, 2009, we own approximately \$66.7 million of mezzanine or first-mortgage loans receivable and a 25% interest in a joint venture with Prudential Real Estate Investors, formed in January 2008, which owns \$79.4 million of mezzanine loans.

Our investment strategies focus on the upscale and upper-upscale segments within the lodging industry. However, we also believe that as hotel supply, demand and capital market cycles change, we will be able to shift our investment strategies to take advantage of newly created lodging-related investment opportunities as they develop. Currently, we do not limit our acquisitions to any specific geographical market within the United States.

In response to the recent financial market crisis, we have undertaken a series of actions to manage the sources and uses of our funds in an effort to navigate through challenging market conditions while still pursuing opportunities that can create long-term shareholder value. In this effort, we have attempted to proactively address value and cash flow deficits among certain of our mortgaged hotels, with a goal of enhancing shareholder value through loan amendments, or in certain instances, consensual transfers of hotel properties to the lenders in satisfaction of the related debt, some of which will likely result in impairment charges. In December 2009, after fully cooperating with the servicer for a consensual foreclosure or deed in lieu of foreclosure, we agreed to transfer possession and control of the Hyatt Regency Dearborn to a receiver. Additionally, we are continuing to negotiate a consensual transfer of the Westin O Hare hotel to the related lender. In each of these instances, the hotel was not generating sufficient cash flow to cover its debt service and was not expected to generate sufficient cash flow to cover its debt service for the foreseeable future. The loans secured by these hotels, subject to certain customary exceptions, were non-recourse to us. We may continue to proactively address value and cash flow deficits in a similar manner as necessary and appropriate.

We intend to continue to invest in a variety of lodging-related assets based upon our evaluation of diverse market conditions. These investments may include: (i) direct hotel investments; (ii) mezzanine financing through origination or acquisition in secondary markets; (iii) first-lien mortgage financing through origination or acquisition in secondary markets; and (iv) sale-leaseback transactions.

We are self-advised and own our lodging investments and conduct our business through Ashford Hospitality Limited Partnership, our operating partnership. We are the sole general partner of our operating partnership.

We have elected to be treated as a real estate investment trust, or REIT, for federal income tax purposes. Because of limitations imposed on REITs in operating hotel properties, third-party managers manage each of our hotel properties. Our employees perform, directly through our operating partnership, various acquisition, development, redevelopment, asset management, accounting and corporate management functions. All persons employed in the day-to-day operations of our hotels are employees of the management companies engaged by our lessees, and are not our employees.

Our principal executive offices are located at 14185 Dallas Parkway, Suite 1100, Dallas, Texas 75254. Our telephone number is (972) 490-9600. Our website is <http://www.ahtreit.com>. The contents of our website are not a part of this prospectus. Our shares of common stock are traded on the New York Stock Exchange, or the NYSE, under the symbol AHT.

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**RISK FACTORS**

An investment in our securities involves various risks. You should carefully consider the risk factors incorporated by reference to our most recent Annual Report on Form 10-K and the other information contained in this prospectus, as updated by our subsequent filings under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended, or the Exchange Act, and the risk factors and other information contained in the applicable prospectus supplement before acquiring any of our securities. In addition, the following risk factors describe additional important risks and uncertainties that you should consider.

***If the current economic downturn continues and the underlying hotel properties supporting our mezzanine loan portfolio are unable to generate enough cash flows for the scheduled payments, there is a possibility that our remaining mezzanine loan portfolio could be written off in its entirety, which may adversely affect our operating results.***

When we implemented our mezzanine loan investment strategy, we performed the underwriting stress test based on worst case scenarios similar to what the hotel industry experienced post 9/11. However, the magnitude of the current economic downturn far exceeds our underwriting sensitivity. As a result, as of September 30, 2009, we have recorded impairment charges with respect to our mezzanine loan portfolio of approximately \$149.3 million in 2009, and if the current economic downturn continues, we may record additional impairment charges to this portfolio equal to as much as the remaining balance of our mezzanine loan portfolio. If such a write-off were to occur, it would impact our interest income by up to \$4.9 million annually.

***Continued significant impairment charges could result in our failure to satisfy certain financial ratios, which could trigger additional rights for the holder of our Series B-1 Preferred Stock.***

Our Series B-1 preferred stockholder has certain contractual rights in the event we are unable to satisfy certain financial ratios, and such inability remains uncured for more than 120 days. The end of the 120 day cure period, without a cure or waiver, would severely restrict our ability to operate our company without triggering a covenant violation. Specifically, we would be restricted from issuing preferred securities, incurring additional debt or purchasing or leasing real property without triggering a covenant violation under the articles supplementary governing the Series B-1 preferred stock.

The impairment charges incurred during 2009 resulted in an adjusted EBITDA calculation that could have prevented us from satisfying one financial ratio. As a result, without a cure or waiver, we may have been obligated to restrict operations beginning in the third quarter of 2009 or risk triggering a covenant violation. However, Security Capital Preferred Growth Incorporated, the sole holder of our Series B-1 preferred stock, reviewed the specific impairment charges and consented to specific exclusions of the impairments as they impact the financial ratio calculations for the affected periods. If we incur additional impairment charges, including impairment charges we expect to incur in connection with the continuing Westin O Hare hotel negotiations, there is no assurance that Security Capital will grant a similar waiver.

If a covenant violation does occur, we will be obligated to pay an additional \$0.05015 per share quarterly dividend on our Series B-1 preferred stock (approximately \$373,510 aggregate increase per quarter), and the Series B-1 preferred stockholder will gain the right to appoint two board members.

***The assets associated with certain of our derivative transactions do not constitute qualified REIT assets and the related income will not constitute qualified REIT income. Significant fluctuations in the value of such assets or the***



*related income could jeopardize our REIT status or result in additional tax liabilities.*

We have entered into certain derivative transactions to protect against interest rate risks not specifically associated with debt incurred to acquire qualified REIT assets. The REIT provisions of the Internal Revenue Code limit our income and assets in each year from such derivative transactions. Failure to comply with the asset or income limitations within the REIT provisions of the Internal Revenue Code could result in penalty taxes or loss of our REIT status. If we elect to contribute the non-qualifying derivatives into a taxable REIT subsidiary to preserve our REIT status, such an action would result in any income from such transactions being subject to federal income taxation.

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**ABOUT THIS PROSPECTUS**

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

**FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS**

This prospectus and the documents incorporated herein by reference, together with other statements and information publicly disseminated by our company, contains certain forward-looking statements within the meaning of Section 27A of the Securities Act of 1933, as amended or the Securities Act, and Section 21E of the Exchange Act, that are subject to risks and uncertainties. We intend such forward-looking statements to be covered by the safe harbor provisions for forward-looking statements contained in the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995 and include this statement for purposes of complying with these safe harbor provisions. These forward-looking statements include information about possible or assumed future results of our business, financial condition, liquidity, results of operations, plans and objectives. Statements regarding the following subjects are forward-looking by their nature:

our business and investment strategy;

our projected operating results;

completion of any pending transactions;

expected liquidity needs and sources (including capital expenditures and our ability to obtain financing or raise capital);

our understanding of our competition;

market and industry trends;

projected revenues and expenses; and

the impact of technology on our operations and business.

The forward-looking statements are based on our beliefs, assumptions and expectations of our future performance, taking into account all information currently available to us. These beliefs, assumptions and expectations can change as a result of many possible events or factors, not all of which are known to us. If a change occurs, our business, financial condition, liquidity and results of operations may vary materially from those expressed in our forward-looking statements. You should carefully consider this risk when you make an investment decision concerning our securities. Additionally, the following factors could cause actual results to vary from our forward-looking statements:

the factors discussed in this prospectus, and in the information incorporated by reference into it, including those set forth under the section titled Risk Factors;

general volatility of the capital markets and the market price of our securities;

changes in our business or investment strategy;

availability, terms and deployment of capital;

availability of qualified personnel;

changes in our industry and the market in which we operate, interest rates or the general economy; and

the degree and nature of our competition.

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When we use the words will likely result, may, anticipate, estimate, should, expect, believe, intend, or similar expressions, we intend to identify forward-looking statements. You should not place undue reliance on these forward-looking statements. Our forward-looking statements speak only as of the date of this prospectus or as of the date they are made, and except as otherwise required by federal securities laws, we are not obligated to publicly update or revise any forward-looking statements, whether as a result of new information, future events or otherwise.

**USE OF PROCEEDS**

Unless otherwise indicated in a prospectus supplement, we expect to use the net proceeds from the sale of these securities for general corporate purposes, which may include acquisitions of additional properties as suitable opportunities arise, the origination or acquisition of hotel debt, the joint venture of hotel investments, the repayment of outstanding indebtedness, capital expenditures, the expansion, redevelopment or improvement of properties in our portfolio, working capital and other general purposes. Further details regarding the use of the net proceeds of a specific series or class of the securities will be set forth in the applicable prospectus supplement.

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

The following table sets forth our historical ratio of earnings to fixed charges, as adjusted for discontinued operations, and our ratio of earnings to combined fixed charges and preferred stock dividends, as adjusted for discontinued operations, for each of the periods indicated:

	Nine Months Ended		Year Ended December 31,			
	September 30, 2009	2008	2007	2006	2005	2004
Ratio of earnings to fixed charges	*	1.59	*	1.61	1.05	1.45
Ratio of earnings to combined fixed charges and preferred stock dividends	**	1.36	**	1.29	**	1.26

\* For these periods, earnings were less than fixed charges, and the coverage deficiency was approximately \$207,096,000 for the nine months ended September 30, 2009 and \$756,000 for the year ended December 31, 2007.

\*\* For these periods, earnings were less than fixed charges and preferred stock dividends, and the coverage deficiency was approximately \$221,588,000 for the nine months ended September 30, 2009, \$24,746,000 for the year ended December 31, 2007 and \$7,650,000 for the year ended December 31, 2005.

For purposes of computing the ratios of earnings to fixed charges and of earnings to combined fixed charges and preferred stock dividends and the amount of coverage deficiency, earnings is computed as pre-tax income from continuing operations before equity method earnings or losses from equity investees plus: (a) fixed charges less preferred unit distribution requirements included in fixed charges but not deducted in the determination of pre-tax income from continuing operations and (b) distributed income of equity investees. Fixed charges consist of (a) interest expenses as no interest was capitalized in the periods presented, (b) amortization of debt issuance costs, discount or premium, (c) the interest component of rent expense, and (d) preferred dividends requirements of a majority-owned subsidiary.

## DESCRIPTION OF OUR CAPITAL STOCK

### General

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

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### **Authorized Stock**

Our charter provides that we may issue up to 200 million shares of voting common stock, par value \$.01 per share, and 50 million shares of preferred stock, par value \$.01 per share.

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

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

### **Restrictions on Ownership and Transfer**

In order for us to qualify as a REIT under the Internal Revenue Code or Code, not more than 50% of the value of the outstanding shares of our stock may be owned, actually or constructively, by five or fewer individuals (as defined in the Code to include certain entities) during the last half of a taxable year (other than the first year for which an election to be a REIT has been made by us). In addition, if we, or one or more owners (actually or constructively) of 10% or more of us, actually or constructively owns 10% or more of a tenant of ours (or a tenant of any partnership in which we are a partner), the rent received by us (either directly or through any such partnership) from such tenant will not be qualifying income for purposes of the REIT gross income tests of the Code. Our stock must also be beneficially owned by 100 or more persons during at least 335 days of a taxable year of 12 months or during a proportionate part of a shorter taxable year (other than the first year for which an election to be a REIT has been made by us).

Our charter contains restrictions on the ownership and transfer of our capital stock that are intended to assist us in complying with these requirements and continuing to qualify as a REIT. The relevant sections of our charter provide that, subject to the exceptions described below, no person or persons acting as a group may own, or be deemed to own by virtue of the attribution provisions of the Code, more than (i) 9.8% of the lesser of the number or value of shares of our common stock outstanding or (ii) 9.8% of the lesser of the number or value of the issued and outstanding preferred or other shares of any class or series of our stock. We refer to this restriction as the ownership limit.

The ownership attribution rules under the Code are complex and may cause stock owned actually or constructively by a group of related individuals and/or entities to be owned constructively by one individual or entity. As a result, the acquisition of less than 9.8% of our common stock (or the acquisition of an interest in an entity that owns, actually or constructively, our common stock) by an individual or entity, could, nevertheless cause that individual or entity, or another individual or entity, to own constructively in excess of 9.8% of our outstanding common stock and thereby subject the common stock to the ownership limit.

Our board of directors may, in its sole discretion, waive the ownership limit with respect to one or more stockholders who would not be treated as individuals for purposes of the Code if it determines that such ownership will not cause any individual's beneficial ownership of shares of our capital stock to jeopardize our status as a REIT (for example, by causing any tenant of ours to be considered a related party tenant for purposes of the REIT qualification rules).



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As a condition of our waiver, our board of directors may require an opinion of counsel or IRS ruling satisfactory to our board of directors, and/or representations or undertakings from the applicant with respect to preserving our REIT status.

In connection with the waiver of the ownership limit or at any other time, our board of directors may decrease the ownership limit for all other persons and entities; provided, however, that the decreased ownership limit will not be effective for any person or entity whose percentage ownership in our capital stock is in excess of such decreased ownership limit until such time as such person or entity's percentage of our capital stock equals or falls below the decreased ownership limit, but any further acquisition of our capital stock in excess of such percentage ownership of our capital stock will be in violation of the ownership limit. Additionally, the new ownership limit may not allow five or fewer individuals (as defined for purposes of the REIT ownership restrictions under the Code) to beneficially own more than 49.0% of the value of our outstanding capital stock.

Our charter provisions further prohibit:

any person from actually or constructively owning shares of our capital stock that would result in us being closely held under Section 856(h) of the Code or otherwise cause us to fail to qualify as a REIT; and

any person from transferring shares of our capital stock if such transfer would result in shares of our stock being beneficially owned by fewer than 100 persons (determined without reference to any rules of attribution).

Any person who acquires or attempts or intends to acquire beneficial or constructive ownership of shares of our common stock that will or may violate any of the foregoing restrictions on transferability and ownership will be required to give notice immediately to us and provide us with such other information as we may request in order to determine the effect of such transfer on our status as a REIT. The foregoing provisions on transferability and ownership will not apply if our board of directors determines that it is no longer in our best interests to qualify, or to continue to qualify, as a REIT.

Pursuant to our charter, if any purported transfer of our capital stock or any other event would otherwise result in any person violating the ownership limits or the other restrictions in our charter, then any such purported transfer will be void and of no force or effect with respect to the purported transferee or owner (collectively referred to hereinafter as the purported owner) as to that number of shares in excess of the ownership limit (rounded up to the nearest whole share). The number of shares in excess of the ownership limit will be automatically transferred to, and held by, a trust for the exclusive benefit of one or more charitable organizations selected by us. The trustee of the trust will be designated by us and must be unaffiliated with us and with any purported owner. The automatic transfer will be effective as of the close of business on the business day prior to the date of the violative transfer or other event that results in a transfer to the trust. Any dividend or other distribution paid to the purported owner, prior to our discovery that the shares had been automatically transferred to a trust as described above, must be repaid to the trustee upon demand for distribution to the beneficiary of the trust and all dividends and other distributions paid by us with respect to such excess shares prior to the sale by the trustee of such shares shall be paid to the trustee for the beneficiary. If the transfer to the trust as described above is not automatically effective, for any reason, to prevent violation of the applicable ownership limit, then our charter provides that the transfer of the excess shares will be void. Subject to Maryland law, effective as of the date that such excess shares have been transferred to the trust, the trustee shall have the authority (at the trustee's sole discretion and subject to applicable law) (i) to rescind as void any vote cast by a purported owner prior to our discovery that such shares have been transferred to the trust and (ii) to recast such vote in accordance with the desires of the trustee acting for the benefit of the beneficiary of the trust, provided that if we have already taken irreversible action, then the trustee shall not have the authority to rescind and recast such vote.



Shares of our capital stock transferred to the trustee are deemed offered for sale to us, or our designee, at a price per share equal to the lesser of (i) the price paid by the purported owner for the shares (or, if the event which resulted in the transfer to the trust did not involve a purchase of such shares of our capital stock at market price, the market price on the day of the event which resulted in the transfer of such shares of our

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capital stock to the trust) and (ii) the market price on the date we, or our designee, accepts such offer. We have the right to accept such offer until the trustee has sold the shares of our capital stock held in the trust pursuant to the clauses discussed below. Upon a sale to us, the interest of the charitable beneficiary in the shares sold terminates and the trustee must distribute the net proceeds of the sale to the purported owner and any dividends or other distributions held by the trustee with respect to such capital stock will be paid to the charitable beneficiary.

If we do not buy the shares, the trustee must, within 20 days of receiving notice from us of the transfer of shares to the trust, sell the shares to a person or entity designated by the trustee who could own the shares without violating the ownership limits. After that, the trustee must distribute to the purported owner an amount equal to the lesser of (i) the net price paid by the purported owner for the shares (or, if the event which resulted in the transfer to the trust did not involve a purchase of such shares at market price, the market price on the day of the event which resulted in the transfer of such shares of our capital stock to the trust) and (ii) the net sales proceeds received by the trust for the shares. Any proceeds in excess of the amount distributable to the purported owner will be distributed to the beneficiary.

Our charter also provides that **Benefit Plan Investors** (as defined in our charter) may not hold, individually or in the aggregate, 25% or more of the value of any class or series of shares of our capital stock to the extent such class or series does not constitute **Publicly Offered Securities** (as defined in our charter).

All persons who own, directly or by virtue of the attribution provisions of the Code, more than 5% (or such other percentage as provided in the regulations promulgated under the Code) of the lesser of the number or value of the shares of our outstanding capital stock must give written notice to us within 30 days after the end of each calendar year. In addition, each stockholder will, upon demand, be required to disclose to us in writing such information with respect to the direct, indirect and constructive ownership of shares of our stock as our board of directors deems reasonably necessary to comply with the provisions of the Code applicable to a REIT, to comply with the requirements or any taxing authority or governmental agency or to determine any such compliance.

All certificates representing shares of our capital stock bear a legend referring to the restrictions described above.

These ownership limits could delay, defer or prevent a transaction or a change of control of our company that might involve a premium price over the then prevailing market price for the holders of some, or a majority, of our outstanding shares of common stock or which such holders might believe to be otherwise in their best interest.

**Transfer Agent and Registrar**

The transfer agent and registrar for our common stock and preferred stock is Computershare Trust Company, N.A.

**DESCRIPTION OF OUR COMMON STOCK**

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

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

liquidation, dissolution or winding up after payment of or adequate provision for all known debts and liabilities of our company, including the preferential rights on dissolution of any class or classes of preferred stock.

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

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

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

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

**DESCRIPTION OF OUR PREFERRED STOCK**

Our charter authorizes our board of directors to classify any unissued shares of preferred stock and to reclassify any previously classified but unissued shares of any series. Prior to issuance of shares of each series, our board of directors is required by the MGCL and our charter to set the terms, preferences, conversion or other rights, voting powers, restrictions, limitations as to dividends or other distributions, qualifications and terms or conditions of redemption for each such series. Thus, our board of directors could authorize the issuance of shares of preferred stock with terms and conditions that could have the effect of delaying, deferring or preventing a transaction or a change of control of our company that might involve a premium price for holders of our common stock or that stockholders believe may be in their best interests. As of the date hereof, 1,487,900 shares of Series A Preferred Stock, 7,447,865 shares of Series B-1 Preferred Stock, and 5,666,797 shares of our Series D Preferred Stock are outstanding. Our preferred stock will, when issued, be fully paid and nonassessable and will not have, or be subject to, any preemptive or similar rights.

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

the title and stated value of that preferred stock;

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

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

whether dividends will be cumulative or non-cumulative and, if cumulative, the date from which dividends on that preferred stock will accumulate;

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the voting rights applicable to that preferred stock;

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

the provisions for a sinking fund, if any, for that preferred stock;

the provisions for redemption including any restriction thereon, if applicable, of that preferred stock;

any listing of that preferred stock on any securities exchange;

the terms and conditions, if applicable, upon which that preferred stock will be convertible into shares of our common stock, including the conversion price (or manner of calculation of the conversion price) and conversion period;

a discussion of federal income tax considerations applicable to that preferred stock;

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

in addition to those limitations described above under **DESCRIPTION OF CAPITAL STOCK** Restrictions on Ownership and Transfer, any other limitations on actual and constructive ownership and restrictions on transfer, in each case as may be appropriate to preserve our status as a REIT; and

any other specific terms, preferences, rights, limitations or restrictions of that preferred stock.

**Rank**

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

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

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

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

The term equity securities does not include convertible debt securities.

**Dividends**

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

rates and on dates as will be set forth in the applicable prospectus supplement.

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

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

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

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

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

## **Redemption**

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

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

## **Liquidation Preference**

Upon any voluntary or involuntary liquidation or dissolution of us or winding up of our affairs, then, before any distribution or payment will be made to the holders of common stock or any other series or class of stock ranking junior to any series or class of the preferred stock in the distribution of assets upon any liquidation, dissolution or winding up of our affairs, the holders of that series or class of preferred stock will be entitled to receive out of our



assets legally available for distribution to shareholders liquidating distributions in the amount of the liquidation preference per share (set forth in the applicable prospectus supplement), plus an amount equal to all dividends accrued and unpaid on the preferred stock (which will not include any accumulation in respect of unpaid dividends for prior dividend periods if the preferred stock does not have a cumulative dividend). After payment of the full amount of the liquidating distributions to which they are entitled, the holders of preferred stock will have no right or claim to any of our remaining assets.

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

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

## **Voting Rights**

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

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

authorize or create, or increase the authorized or issued amount of, any class or series of stock ranking prior to that series or class of preferred stock with respect to payment of dividends or the distribution of assets upon liquidation, dissolution or winding up or reclassify any authorized stock into any of those shares, or create, authorize or issue any obligation or security convertible into or evidencing the right to purchase any of those shares; or

amend, alter or repeal the provisions of our charter (including articles supplementary establishing any class or series of preferred stock), whether by merger, consolidation or otherwise, so as to materially and adversely affect any right, preference, privilege or voting power of that series or class of preferred stock or the holders of the preferred stock.

However, any increase in the amount of the authorized preferred stock or the creation or issuance of any other series or class of preferred stock, or any increase in the amount of authorized shares of such series or class or any other series or class of preferred stock, in each case ranking on a parity with or junior to the preferred stock of that series or class with respect to payment of dividends or the distribution of assets upon liquidation, dissolution or winding up, will not be deemed to materially and adversely affect such rights, preferences, privileges or voting powers.

These voting provisions will not apply if, at or prior to the time when the act with respect to which that vote would otherwise be required will be effected, all outstanding shares of that series or class of preferred stock have been redeemed or called for redemption upon proper notice and sufficient funds have been deposited in trust to effect that redemption.

## **Conversion Rights**

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

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

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

the conversion period;

provisions as to whether conversion will be at the option of the holders of the preferred stock or us,

the events requiring an adjustment of the conversion price; and

provisions affecting conversion in the event of the redemption of the preferred stock.

**Series A Preferred Stock**

Our board of directors has classified and designated 3,000,000 shares of Series A Preferred Stock, of which 1,487,900 shares are currently outstanding. The Series A Preferred Stock generally provides for the following rights, preferences and obligations.

*Dividend Rights.* The Series A Preferred Stock accrues a cumulative cash dividend at an annual rate of 8.55% on the \$25.00 per share liquidation preference.

*Liquidation Rights.* Upon any voluntary or involuntary liquidation, dissolution or winding up of our company, the holders of Series A Preferred Stock will be entitled to receive a liquidation preference of \$25.00 per share, plus any accumulated, accrued and unpaid dividends (whether or not earned or declared), before any payment or distribution will be made or set aside for holders of any junior stock.

*Redemption Provisions.* We may redeem Series A Preferred Stock, in whole or from time to time in part, at a cash redemption price equal to 100% of the liquidation preference plus all accrued and unpaid dividends to the date fixed for redemption. The Series A Preferred Stock has no stated maturity and is not subject to any sinking fund or mandatory redemption provisions.

*Voting Rights.* Holders of Series A Preferred Stock generally have no voting rights, except that if six or more quarterly dividend payments have not been made, our board of directors will be expanded by two seats and the holders of Series A Preferred Stock, voting together as a single class with the holders of all other series of preferred stock that has been granted similar voting rights and is considered parity stock with the Series A Preferred Stock, will be entitled to elect these two directors. In addition, the issuance of senior shares or certain changes to the terms of the Series A Preferred Stock that would be materially adverse to the rights of holders of Series A Preferred Stock cannot be made without the affirmative vote of holders of at least 66 $\frac{2}{3}$ % of the outstanding Series A Preferred Stock and shares of any class or series of shares ranking on a parity with the Series A Preferred Stock which are entitled to similar voting rights, if any, voting as a single class.

*Conversion and Preemptive Rights.* The Series A Preferred Stock is not convertible or exchangeable for any of our other securities or property, and holders of shares of our Series A Preferred Stock have no preemptive rights to subscribe for any securities of our company.

**Series B-1 Preferred Stock**

Our board of directors has classified and designated 7,447,865 shares of Series B-1 Preferred Stock, all of which are currently outstanding. The Series B-1 Preferred Stock generally provides for the following rights, preferences and obligations.

*Dividend Rights.* Holders of Series B-1 Preferred Stock are entitled to receive cumulative cash dividends equal to the greater of \$0.14 per share or the prevailing common stock dividend. Additionally, if we breach certain obligations we made to the holders of the Series B-1 Preferred Stock in the purchase agreement for this stock or if we fail to pay dividends on the Series B-1 Preferred Stock for four quarterly dividend periods, the holders of Series B-1 Preferred Stock will be entitled to an additional dividend equal to \$0.05015 per share.

*Liquidation Rights.* Upon any voluntary or involuntary liquidation, dissolution or winding up of our company, the holders of Series B-1 Preferred Stock will be entitled to receive a liquidation preference of

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\$10.07 per share, plus an amount equal to all accumulated, accrued and unpaid dividends (whether or not earned or declared) to the date of liquidation, dissolution or winding up of the affairs of our company, before any payment or distribution will be made to or set apart for the holders of any junior stock.

*Redemption Provisions.* The Series B-1 Preferred Stock is fully redeemable, provided we are in compliance with all financial covenants included in the Series B purchase agreement during the period commencing on the date we give our redemption notice through the redemption date. Any such redemption will be made at a redemption price equal to the liquidation preference of \$10.07 per share, plus an amount equal to all accumulated, accrued and unpaid dividends (whether or not earned or declared).

Each holder of Series B-1 Preferred Stock is entitled to require us to redeem the Series B-1 Preferred Stock for 100% of its liquidation value, plus accrued and unpaid distributions whether or not declared, if a change of control occurs, we fail to continue to qualify as a REIT or we cease to be listed for trading on the NYSE, the NASDAQ Stock Market (the NASDAQ ) or the American Stock Exchange (the AMEX ). In this event, the redemption price will be equal to the liquidation preference of \$10.07 per share, plus an amount equal to all accumulated, accrued and unpaid dividends (whether or not earned or declared).

*Voting Rights.* Holders of Series B-1 Preferred Stock are entitled to vote on (i) all matters submitted to the holders of our common stock together with the holders of our common stock as a single class and (ii) certain matters affecting the Series B-1 Preferred Stock as a separate class. In certain circumstances, our board of directors will be expanded by two seats and the holders of Series B-1 Preferred Stock will be entitled to elect these two directors.

So long as any share of Series B-1 Preferred Stock is outstanding, in addition to any other vote or consent of stockholders required by law or by our charter, the affirmative vote of the holders of 66<sup>2</sup>/<sub>3</sub>% of the outstanding shares of Series B-1 Preferred Stock, voting together as a class, given in person or by proxy, either in writing without a meeting or by vote at any meeting called for the purpose, shall be necessary for effecting or validating:

(a) any amendment, alteration or repeal of any of the provisions of the charter or the articles supplementary creating the Series B-1 Preferred Stock that materially and adversely affects the voting powers, rights, preferences or other terms of the holders of the Series B-1 Preferred Stock;

(b) any issuance of (a) any capital stock or other equity security to which the Series B-1 Preferred Stock would be junior as to the payment of dividends or as to the distribution of assets upon liquidation, dissolution or winding up or (b) any capital stock or other equity security which has redemption rights which are more favorable in any material respect to the holder of such security than the redemption rights granted to the holders of the Series B-1 Preferred Stock; and

(c) any merger or consolidation of our company and another entity in which we are not the surviving corporation and each holder of Series B-1 Preferred Stock does not receive shares of the surviving corporation with substantially similar rights, preferences, powers and other terms in the surviving corporation as the Series B-1 Preferred Stock have with respect to us.

*Conversion and Preemptive Rights.* Each share of Series B-1 Preferred Stock is convertible, at the option of the holder, at any time into the number of shares of our common stock obtained by dividing \$10.07 by the conversion price then in effect. The conversion price is currently \$10.07 and is subject to certain adjustments as provided in our charter. Holders of shares of our Series B-1 Preferred Stock have no preemptive rights to subscribe for any securities of our company.

**Series D Preferred Stock**

Our board of directors has classified and designated 8,000,000 shares of Series D Preferred Stock, 5,666,797 shares of which are currently outstanding. The Series D Preferred Stock generally provides for the following rights, preferences and obligations.

*Dividend Rights.* The Series D Preferred Stock accrues a cumulative cash dividend at an annual rate of 8.45% on the \$25.00 per share liquidation preference; provided, however, that during any period of time that

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both (i) the Series D Preferred Stock is not listed on either the NYSE, AMEX, or NASDAQ, or on a successor exchange and (ii) we are not subject to the reporting requirements of the Exchange Act, the Series D Preferred Stock will accrue a cumulative cash dividend at an annual rate of 9.45% on the \$25.00 per share liquidation preference (equivalent to an annual dividend rate of \$2.3625 per share), which we refer to as a special distribution.

*Liquidation Rights.* Upon any voluntary or involuntary liquidation, dissolution or winding up of our company, the holders of Series D Preferred Stock will be entitled to receive a liquidation preference of \$25.00 per share, plus an amount equal to all accumulated, accrued and unpaid dividends (whether or not earned or declared) to the date of liquidation, dissolution or winding up of the affairs of our company, before any payment or distribution will be made to or set apart for the holders of any junior stock.

*Redemption Provisions.* If at any time both, (i) the Series D Preferred Stock ceases to be listed on either the NYSE, AMEX or NASDAQ, or listed on a successor exchange and (ii) we cease to be subject to the reporting requirement of the Exchange Act, then the Series D Preferred Stock will be redeemable at our option, in whole but not in part, within 90 days of the date upon which the shares cease to be listed or quoted and we cease to be subject to the reporting requirements of the Exchange Act. In such event, the shares of Series D Preferred Stock will be redeemable for a cash redemption price equal to the liquidation value of \$25.00 per share, plus accrued and unpaid dividends, whether or not earned or declared, if any, to the redemption date. In addition, during any period in which we are required to pay a special distribution, holders of the Series D Preferred Stock will become entitled to certain information rights related thereto.

Except with respect to the special optional redemption described above and in certain limited circumstances relating to maintaining our ability to qualify as a REIT, we cannot redeem the Series D Preferred Stock prior to July 18, 2012. On and after July 18, 2012, we may redeem the Series D Preferred Stock, in whole or from time to time in part, at a cash redemption price equal to 100% of the \$25.00 per share liquidation preference plus all accrued and unpaid dividends to the date fixed for redemption. The Series D Preferred Stock has no stated maturity and is not subject to any sinking fund or mandatory redemption provisions.

*Voting Rights.* Holders of Series D Preferred Stock generally have no voting rights, except that if six or more quarterly dividend payments have not been made, our board of directors will be expanded by two seats and the holders of Series D Preferred Stock, voting together as a single class with the holders of all other series of preferred stock that has been granted similar voting rights and is considered parity stock with the Series D Preferred Stock, will be entitled to elect these two directors. In addition, the issuance of senior shares or certain changes to the terms of the Series D Preferred Stock that would be materially adverse to the rights of holders of Series D Preferred Stock cannot be made without the affirmative vote of holders of at least 66<sup>2</sup>/<sub>3</sub>% of the outstanding Series D Preferred Stock and shares of any class or series of shares ranking on a parity with the Series D Preferred Stock which are entitled to similar voting rights, if any, voting as a single class.

*Conversion and Preemptive Rights.* The Series D Preferred Stock is not convertible or exchangeable for any of our other securities or property, and holders of shares of our Series D Preferred Stock have no preemptive rights to subscribe for any securities of our company.

**DESCRIPTION OF OUR DEBT SECURITIES**

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



prospectus supplement may differ from the terms we describe below.

The debt securities will be our direct unsecured general obligations and may include debentures, notes, bonds or other evidences of indebtedness. The debt securities will be either senior debt securities or

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subordinated debt securities. The debt securities will be issued under one or more separate indentures. Senior debt securities will be issued under a senior indenture, and subordinated debt securities will be issued under a subordinated indenture. We use the term *indentures* to refer to both the senior indenture and the subordinated indenture. The indentures will be qualified under the Trust Indenture Act. We use the term *trustee* to refer to either the senior trustee or the subordinated trustee, as applicable.

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

**General**

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

the title;

any limit on the amount that may be issued;

whether or not we will issue the series of debt securities in global form, the terms and who the depository will be;

the maturity date;

the annual interest rate, which may be fixed or variable, or the method for determining the rate and the date interest will begin to accrue, the dates interest will be payable and the regular record dates for interest payment dates or the method for determining such dates;

whether or not the debt securities will be secured or unsecured, and the terms of any secured debt;

the terms of the subordination of any series of subordinated debt;

the place where payments will be payable;

our right, if any, to defer payment of interest and the maximum length of any such deferral period;

the date, if any, after which, and the price at which, we may, at our option, redeem the series of debt securities pursuant to any optional redemption provisions;

the date, if any, on which, and the price at which we are obligated, pursuant to any mandatory sinking fund provisions or otherwise, to redeem, or at the holder's option to purchase, the series of debt securities;

whether the indenture will restrict our ability to pay dividends, or will require us to maintain any asset ratios or reserves;

whether we will be restricted from incurring any additional indebtedness;

a discussion on any material or special United States federal income tax considerations applicable to the debt securities;

the denominations in which we will issue the series of debt securities, if other than denominations of \$1,000 and any integral multiple thereof; and

any other specific terms, preferences, rights or limitations of, or restrictions on, the debt securities.

**Conversion or Exchange Rights**

We will set forth in the prospectus supplement the terms on which a series of debt securities may be convertible into or exchangeable for shares of common stock or other securities of ours. We will include provisions as to whether conversion or exchange is mandatory, at the option of the holder or at our option. We may include provisions pursuant to which the number of shares of common stock or other securities of ours that the holders of the series of debt securities receive would be subject to adjustment.

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**Consolidation, Merger or Sale**

The indentures do not contain any covenant which restricts our ability to merge or consolidate, or sell, convey, transfer or otherwise dispose of all or substantially all of our assets. However, any successor to or acquirer of such assets must assume all of our obligations under the indentures or the debt securities, as appropriate.

**Events of Default Under the Indenture**

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

if we fail to pay interest when due and our failure continues for a number of days to be stated in the indenture and the time for payment has not been extended or deferred;

if we fail to pay the principal, or premium, if any, when due and the time for payment has not been extended or delayed;

if we fail to observe or perform any other covenant contained in the debt securities or the indentures, other than a covenant specifically relating to another series of debt securities, and our failure continues for a number of days to be stated in the indenture after we receive notice from the trustee or holders of at least 25% in aggregate principal amount of the outstanding debt securities of the applicable series; and

if specified events of bankruptcy, insolvency or reorganization occur as to us.

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

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

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

the direction so given by the holder is not in conflict with any law or the applicable indenture; and

subject to its duties under the Trust Indenture Act, the trustee need not take any action that might involve it in personal liability or might be unduly prejudicial to the holders not involved in the proceeding.

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

the holder has given written notice to the trustee of a continuing event of default with respect to that series;

the holders of at least 25% in aggregate principal amount of the outstanding debt securities of that series have made written request, and such holders have offered reasonable indemnity to the trustee to institute the proceeding as trustee; and

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the trustee does not institute the proceeding, and does not receive from the holders of a majority in aggregate principal amount of the outstanding debt securities of that series other conflicting directions within 60 days after the notice, request and offer.

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

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

**Modification of Indenture; Waiver**

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

to fix any ambiguity, defect or inconsistency in the indenture; and

to change anything that does not materially adversely affect the interests of any holder of debt securities of any series.

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

extending the fixed maturity of the series of debt securities;

reducing the principal amount, reducing the rate of or extending the time of payment of interest, or any premium payable upon the redemption of any debt securities; or

reducing the percentage of debt securities, the holders of which are required to consent to any amendment.

**Discharge**

Each indenture provides that we can elect to be discharged from our obligations with respect to one or more series of debt securities, except for obligations to:

register the transfer or exchange of debt securities of the series;

replace stolen, lost or mutilated debt securities of the series;

maintain paying agencies;

hold monies for payment in trust;

compensate and indemnify the trustee; and

appoint any successor trustee.

In order to exercise our rights to be discharged, we must deposit with the trustee money or government obligations sufficient to pay all the principal of, any premium, if any, and interest on, the debt securities of the series on the dates payments are due.

**Form, Exchange and Transfer**

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

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

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

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

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

issue, register the transfer of, or exchange any debt securities of that series during a period beginning at the opening of business 15 days before the day of mailing of a notice of redemption of any debt securities that may be selected for redemption and ending at the close of business on the day of the mailing; or

register the transfer of or exchange any debt securities so selected for redemption, in whole or in part, except the unredeemed portion of any debt securities we are redeeming in part.

## **Information Concerning the Trustee**

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

## **Payment and Paying Agents**

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

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



maintain a paying agent in each place of payment for the debt securities of a particular series.

All money we pay to a paying agent or the trustee for the payment of the principal of or any premium or interest on any debt securities which remains unclaimed at the end of two years after such principal, premium

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or interest has become due and payable will be repaid to us, and the holder of the security thereafter may look only to us for payment thereof.

**Governing Law**

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

**Subordination of Subordinated Notes**

The subordinated notes will be unsecured and will be subordinate and junior in priority of payment to certain of our other indebtedness to the extent described in a prospectus supplement. The subordinated indenture does not limit the amount of subordinated notes which we may issue. It also does not limit us from issuing any other secured or unsecured debt.

**DESCRIPTION OF OUR WARRANTS**

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

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

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

the aggregate number of the securities covered by the warrant;

the designation, amount and terms of the securities purchasable upon exercise of the warrant;

the exercise price for our debt securities, the amount of debt securities upon exercise you will receive, and a description of that series of debt securities;

the exercise price for shares of our preferred stock, the number of shares of preferred stock to be received upon exercise, and a description of that series of our preferred stock;

the exercise price for shares of our common stock and the number of shares of common stock to be received upon exercise;

the expiration date for exercising the warrant;

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

a discussion of U.S. federal income tax consequences; and

any other material terms of the securities warrants.

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

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

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**DESCRIPTION OF OUR RIGHTS**

We may issue rights to purchase our debt securities, common stock or preferred stock. The following description of rights to purchase such securities provides certain general terms and provisions of such rights that we may offer. Our rights may be issued independently or together with any other security offered hereby and may or may not be transferable by the person receiving the rights in such offering. In connection with any offering of rights, we may enter into a standby arrangement with one or more underwriters or other purchasers pursuant to which the underwriters or other purchasers may be required to purchase all or a portion of any securities remaining unsubscribed for after such offering. Certain other terms of any rights will be described in the applicable prospectus supplement. To the extent that any particular terms of any rights described in a prospectus supplement differ from any of the terms described in this prospectus, then those particular terms described in this prospectus shall be deemed to have been superseded by that prospectus supplement. The description in the applicable prospectus supplement of any rights we offer will not necessarily be complete and will be qualified in its entirety by reference to the applicable rights certificate, which will be filed as an exhibit to the registration statement of which this prospectus is a part or to a document that is incorporated or deemed to be incorporated by reference in this prospectus. For more information on how you may obtain copies of the rights certificate applicable to any rights we may offer, see [Where You Can Find More Information](#). We urge you to read the applicable rights certificate and any applicable prospectus supplement in their entirety.

The prospectus supplement relating to any rights that we may offer will include specific terms relating to the offering, including, among other matters:

the date of determining the security holders entitled to the rights distribution;

the aggregate number of rights issued and the aggregate amount of debt securities or the number of shares of common stock or preferred stock purchasable upon exercise of the rights;

the exercise price;

the conditions to completion of the rights offering;

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

a discussion of U.S. federal income tax consequences related to the rights; and

any other material terms of the rights.

Each right would entitle the holder of the rights to purchase for cash the principal amount of debt securities or the number of shares of common stock or preferred stock at the exercise price set forth in the applicable prospectus supplement. Rights may be exercised at any time up to the close of business on the expiration date for such rights as provided in the applicable prospectus supplement. After the close of business on the expiration date, all unexercised rights will become void.

**BOOK-ENTRY SECURITIES**

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

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the depository arrangement with respect to a class or series of securities that differ from the terms described here will be described in the applicable prospectus supplement.

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

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

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

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

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

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

issue individual securities of that series in exchange for the global security or securities representing that series of securities.

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

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

**The Board of Directors**

Our bylaws provide that the number of directors of our company may be established by our board of directors but may not be fewer than the minimum number permitted under the MGCL nor more than 15. Any vacancy will be filled, at any regular meeting or at any special meeting called for that purpose, by a majority of the remaining directors.

Pursuant to our charter, each member of our board of directors will serve one year terms and until their successors are elected and qualified. Holders of shares of our common stock will have no right to cumulative voting in the election of directors. Consequently, at each annual meeting of stockholders at which our board of directors is elected, the holders of a plurality of the shares of our common stock will be able to elect all of the members of our board of directors.

**Business Combinations**

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

any person who beneficially owns 10% or more of the voting power of our voting stock; or

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

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

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

80% of the votes entitled to be cast by holders of the then outstanding shares of common stock; and

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



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

The statute permits various exemptions from its provisions, including business combinations that are approved by the board of directors before the time that the interested stockholder becomes an interested stockholder.

Our charter includes a provision excluding the corporation from these provisions of the MGCL and, consequently, the five-year prohibition and the super-majority vote requirements will not apply to business

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combinations between us and any interested stockholder of ours unless we later amend our charter, with stockholder approval, to modify or eliminate this provision. Any such amendment may not be effective until 18 months after the stockholder vote and may not apply to any business combination involving us and an interested stockholder (or affiliate) who became an interested stockholder on or before the date of the vote. We believe that our ownership restrictions will substantially reduce the risk that a stockholder would become an interested stockholder within the meaning of the Maryland business combination statute.

## **Control Share Acquisitions**

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

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

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

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

Our charter contains a provision exempting from the control share acquisition statute any and all acquisitions by any person of our common stock and, consequently, the applicability of the control share acquisitions unless we later amend our charter, with stockholder approval, to modify or eliminate this provision.

## **Amendment to Our Charter**

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

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**Dissolution of Our Company**

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

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

Our bylaws provide that:

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

pursuant to our notice of the meeting;

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

The advance notice provisions of our bylaws could delay, defer or prevent a transaction or a change of control of our company that might involve a premium price for holders of our common stock or that stockholders otherwise believe may be in their best interest. Likewise, if our company's charter were to be amended to avail the corporation of the business combination provisions of the MGCL or to remove or modify the provision in the charter opting out of the control share acquisition provisions of the MGCL, these provisions of the MGCL could have similar anti-takeover effects.

**Indemnification and Limitation of Directors and Officers Liability**

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

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

established that:

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

was committed in bad faith; or

was the result of active and deliberate dishonesty;

the director or officer actually received an improper personal benefit in money, property or services; or

in the case of any criminal proceeding, the director or officer had reasonable cause to believe that the act or omission was unlawful.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

The partnership agreement of our operating partnership provides that we, as general partner, and our officers and directors are indemnified to the fullest extent permitted by law. See Partnership Agreement Exculpation and Indemnification of the General Partner.

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

**PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT**

**Management**

Ashford Hospitality Limited Partnership, our operating partnership, has been organized as a Delaware limited partnership. One of our wholly-owned subsidiaries is the sole general partner of this partnership, and one of our

subsidiaries holds limited partnership units in this partnership. A majority of the limited partnership units not owned by our company are owned by certain of our directors, executive officers and affiliates of such persons. In the future, we may issue additional interests in our operating partnership to third parties.

Pursuant to the partnership agreement of the operating partnership, we, as the sole general partner, generally have full, exclusive and complete responsibility and discretion in the management, operation and control of the partnership, including the ability to cause the partnership to enter into certain major transactions, including acquisitions, developments and dispositions of properties, borrowings and refinancings of existing indebtedness. No limited partner may take part in the operation, management or control of the business of the operating partnership by virtue of being a holder of limited partnership units.

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Our subsidiary may not be removed as general partner of the partnership. Upon the bankruptcy or dissolution of the general partner, the general partner shall be deemed to be removed automatically.

The limited partners of our operating partnership have agreed that in the event of a conflict in the fiduciary duties owed (i) by us to our stockholders and (ii) by us, as general partner of the operating partnership, to those limited partners, we may act in the best interests of our stockholders without violating our fiduciary duties to the limited partners of the operating partnership or being liable for any resulting breach of our duties to the limited partners.

## **Transferability of Interests**

*General Partner.* The partnership agreement provides that we may not transfer our interest as a general partner (including by sale, disposition, merger or consolidation) except:

in connection with a merger of the operating partnership, a sale of substantially all of the assets of the operating partnership or other transaction in which the limited partners receive a certain amount of cash, securities or property; or

in connection with a merger of us or the general partner into another entity, if the surviving entity contributes substantially all its assets to the operating partnership and assumes the duties of the general partner under the operating partnership agreement.

*Limited Partner.* The partnership agreement prohibits the sale, assignment, transfer, pledge or disposition of all or any portion of the limited partnership units without our consent, which we may give or withhold in our sole discretion. However, an individual partner may donate his units to his immediate family or a trust wholly owned by his immediate family, without our consent. The partnership agreement contains other restrictions on transfer if, among other things, that transfer:

would cause us to fail to comply with the REIT rules under the Internal Revenue Code; or

would cause us to become a publicly-traded partnership under the Internal Revenue Code.

## **Capital Contributions**

The partnership agreement provides that if the partnership requires additional funds at any time in excess of funds available to the partnership from borrowing or capital contributions, we may borrow such funds from a financial institution or other lender and lend such funds to the partnership. Under the partnership agreement, we are obligated to contribute the proceeds of any offering of stock as additional capital to the partnership. The operating partnership is authorized to cause the partnership to issue partnership interests for less than fair market value if we conclude in good faith that such issuance is in both the partnership's and our best interests.

The partnership agreement provides that we may make additional capital contributions, including properties, to the partnership in exchange for additional partnership units. If we contribute additional capital to the partnership and receive additional partnership interests for such capital contribution, our percentage interests will be increased on a proportionate basis based on the amount of such additional capital contributions and the value of the partnership at the time of such contributions. Conversely, the percentage interests of the other limited partners will be decreased on a proportionate basis. In addition, if we contribute additional capital to the partnership and receive additional partnership interests for such capital contribution, the capital accounts of the partners will be adjusted upward or downward to reflect any unrealized gain or loss attributable to our properties as if there were an actual sale of such properties at the fair market value thereof. Limited partners have no preemptive right to make additional capital



contributions.

The operating partnership could issue preferred partnership interests in connection with acquisitions of property or otherwise. Any such preferred partnership interests would have priority over common partnership interests with respect to distributions from the partnership, including the partnership interests that our wholly-owned subsidiaries own.

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### **Redemption Rights**

Under the partnership agreement, we have granted to each limited partner holding common units (other than our subsidiary) the right to redeem its limited partnership units. This right may be exercised at the election of a limited partner by giving us written notice, subject to some limitations. The purchase price for the limited partnership units to be redeemed will equal the fair market value of our common stock. The purchase price for the limited partnership units may be paid in cash, or, in our discretion, by the issuance by us of a number of shares of our common stock equal to the number of limited partnership units with respect to which the rights are being exercised. However, no limited partner will be entitled to exercise its redemption rights to the extent that the issuance of common stock to the redeeming partner would be prohibited under our charter or, if after giving effect to such exercise, would cause any person to own, actually or constructively, more than 9.8% of our common stock, unless such ownership limit is waived by us in our sole discretion.

In all cases, however, no limited partner may exercise the redemption right for fewer than 1,000 partnership units or, if a limited partner holds fewer than 1,000 partnership units, all of the partnership units held by such limited partner.

Certain of our executive officers hold a special class of partnership units in our operating partnership referred to as long term incentive partnership units, or LTIP units. LTIP units vest over a number of years and whether vested or not, generally receive the same treatment as common units of our operating partnership, with the key difference being LTIP units do not have full economic parity with common units. The LTIP units will achieve parity with the common units upon the sale or deemed sale of all or substantially all of the assets of the partnership at a time when our stock is trading at some level in excess of \$6.26 per share. More specifically, LTIP units will achieve full economic parity with common units in connection with (i) the actual sale of all or substantially all of the assets of our operating partnership or (ii) the hypothetical sale of such assets, which results from a capital account revaluation, as defined in the partnership agreement, for the operating partnership. A capital account revaluation generally occurs whenever there is an issuance of additional partnership interests or the redemption of partnership interests. If a sale, or deemed sale as a result of a capital account revaluation, occurs at a time when the operating partnership's assets have sufficiently appreciated, the LTIP units will achieve full economic parity with the common units. However, in the absence of sufficient appreciation in the value of the assets of the operating partnership at the time a sale or deemed sale occurs, full economic parity would not be reached. If such parity is reached, vested LTIP units become convertible into an equal number of common units and at that time, the holder will have the redemption rights described above. Until and unless such parity is reached, the LTIP units are not redeemable.

Currently, the aggregate number of shares of common stock issuable upon exercise of the redemption rights by holders of common partnership units is 13,226,520. The number of shares of common stock issuable upon exercise of the redemption rights will be adjusted to account for share splits, mergers, consolidations or similar pro rata share transactions.

### **Conversion Rights**

The holders of the Class B common units have the right to convert the Class B common units into ordinary common units on a one-for-one basis at any time. The holders of the LTIP units will have the right to convert vested LTIP units into ordinary common units on a one-for-one basis at any time after such LTIP units have achieved economic parity with the common units. No other limited partners have any conversion rights.

### **Operations**

The partnership agreement requires the partnership to be operated in a manner that enables us to satisfy the requirements for being classified as a REIT, to minimize any excise tax liability imposed by the Internal Revenue

Code and to ensure that the partnership will not be classified as a publicly traded partnership taxable as a corporation under Section 7704 of the Code.

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In addition to the administrative and operating costs and expenses incurred by the partnership, the partnership will pay all of our administrative costs and expenses. These expenses will be treated as expenses of the partnership and will generally include:

all expenses relating to our continuity of existence;

all expenses relating to offerings and registration of securities;

all expenses associated with the preparation and filing of any of our periodic reports under federal, state or local laws or regulations;

all expenses associated with our compliance with laws, rules and regulations promulgated by any regulatory body; and

all of our other operating or administrative costs incurred in the ordinary course of its business on behalf of the partnership.

## **Distributions**

The partnership agreement provides that the partnership will make cash distributions in amounts and at such times as determined by us in our sole discretion, to us and other limited partners in accordance with the respective percentage interests of the partners in the partnership, except that the holders of our Class B common partnership units are entitled to receive an aggregate preferred distribution of \$735,806 (approximately \$0.201631 per unit) each calendar quarter. Distributions to our Class B common unit holders have priority over distributions to other common unit holders (including us and, therefore, including holders of our common stock) but distributions to our preferred unit holders will have priority over distributions to our Class B common unit holders.

Upon liquidation of the partnership, after payment of, or adequate provisions for, debts and obligations of the partnership, including any partner loans, any remaining assets of the partnership will be distributed to us and the other limited partners with positive capital accounts in accordance with the respective positive capital account balances of the partners.

## **Allocations**

Profits and losses of the partnership (including depreciation and amortization deductions) for each fiscal year generally are allocated to us and the other limited partners in accordance with the respective percentage interests of the partners in the partnership. All of the foregoing allocations are subject to compliance with the provisions of Internal Revenue Code sections 704(b) and 704(c) and Treasury Regulations promulgated thereunder. The partnership will use the traditional method under Internal Revenue Code section 704(c) for allocating items with respect to which the fair market value at the time of contribution differs from the adjusted tax basis at the time of contribution for a hotel.

## **Amendments**

Generally, we, as the general partner of the operating partnership, may amend the partnership agreement without the consent of any limited partner to clarify the partnership agreement, to make changes of an inconsequential nature, to reflect the admission, substitution or withdrawal of limited partners, to reflect the issuance of additional partnership interests or if, in the opinion of counsel, necessary or appropriate to satisfy the Code with respect to partnerships or REITs or federal or state securities laws. However, any amendment which alters or changes the distribution or redemption rights of a limited partner (other than a change to reflect the seniority of any distribution or liquidation

rights of any preferred units issued in accordance with the partnership agreement), changes the method for allocating profits and losses, imposes any obligation on the limited partners to make additional capital contributions or adversely affects the limited liability of the limited partners requires the consent of holders of 662/3% of the limited partnership units, excluding our indirect ownership of limited partnership units. Other amendments require approval of the general partner and holders of 50% of the limited partnership units.

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In addition, the operating partnership may be amended, without the consent of any limited partner, in the event that we or any of our subsidiaries engages in a merger or consolidation with another entity and immediately after such transaction the surviving entity contributes to the operating partnership substantially all of the assets of such surviving entity and the surviving entity agrees to assume our subsidiary's obligation as general partner of the partnership. In such case, the surviving entity will amend the operating partnership agreement to arrive at a new method for calculating the amount a limited partner is to receive upon redemption or conversion of a partnership unit (such method to approximate the existing method as much as possible).

**Exculpation and Indemnification of the General Partner**

The partnership agreement of our operating partnership provides that neither the general partner, nor any of its directors and officers will be liable to the partnership or to any of its partners as a result of errors in judgment or mistakes of fact or law or of any act or omission, if the general partner acted in good faith.

In addition, the partnership agreement requires our operating partnership to indemnify and hold the general partner and its directors, officers and any other person it designates, harmless from and against any and all claims arising from operations of the operating partnership in which any such indemnitee may be involved, or is threatened to be involved, as a party or otherwise, unless it is established that:

the act or omission of the indemnitee was material to the matter giving rise to the proceeding and was committed in bad faith or was the result of active and deliberate dishonesty;

the indemnitee actually received an im