

**CALCULATION OF REGISTRATION FEE**

<b>Title of Securities to be Registered</b>	<b>Proposed Maximum Aggregate Offering Price</b>	<b>Amount of Registration Fee (1)</b>
Common Stock, par value \$.0001 per share	\$100,000,000	\$12,880

- (1) Calculated pursuant to Rule 457(o) and in accordance with Rule 457(r) under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, or the Securities Act. Payment of the registration fee at the time of filing of the registrant's registration statement on Form S-3, filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission on June 3, 2013 (File Nos. 333-189057 and 333-189057-01), was deferred pursuant to Rules 456(b) and 457(r) under the Securities Act.

PROSPECTUS SUPPLEMENT  
(To Prospectus dated June 3, 2013)



**\$100,000,000**

## **Retail Opportunity Investments Corp. Common Stock**

We have entered into separate sales agreements, each of which we refer to as a Sales Agreement and together as the Sales Agreements, with Jefferies LLC, KeyBanc Capital Markets Inc., MLV & Co. LLC and Raymond James & Associates, Inc., each of which we refer to individually as an Agent and together as the Agents, relating to the shares of common stock offered by this prospectus supplement. In accordance with the terms of the Sales Agreements, we may offer and sell shares of our common stock having an aggregate offering price of up to \$100,000,000 from time to time through any of the Agents, as our sales agents.

Sales of the shares, if any, will be made by means of ordinary brokers' transactions or otherwise at market prices prevailing at the time of sale, at prices related to prevailing market prices or at negotiated prices.

We will pay each Agent a commission of up to 2.0% of the gross sales price of shares sold through it as sales agent under the applicable Sales Agreement.

Under the terms of each Sales Agreement, we also may sell shares of our common stock to the applicable Agent as principal for its own account at a price agreed upon at the time of sale. If we sell shares of our common stock to an Agent as principal, we will enter into a separate terms agreement with such Agent, and we will describe this agreement in a separate prospectus supplement or pricing supplement.

None of the Agents is required to sell any specific number or dollar amount of shares of our common stock but each Agent will use its commercially reasonable efforts, as our sales agent and subject to the terms of the applicable Sales Agreement, to sell the shares offered by this prospectus supplement, as instructed by us. The offering of common stock pursuant to each Sales Agreement will terminate upon the earlier of (1) the sale of shares of our common stock subject to the Sales Agreements having an aggregate offering price of \$100,000,000 and (2) with respect to a particular Sales Agreement, the termination of such Sales Agreement by us or by the applicable Agent.

Our common stock is listed on the NASDAQ Global Select Market under the symbol "ROIC." The last reported closing sale price of our common stock on the NASDAQ Global Select Market on September 18, 2014 was \$15.15 per share.

There are restrictions on ownership and transfer of our common stock intended, among other purposes, to preserve our qualification as a real estate investment trust, or REIT. See "Description of Common Stock—Restrictions on Ownership and Transfer" in the accompanying prospectus.

**Investing in our common stock involves risks. See "[Supplemental Risk Factors](#)" beginning on page S-4 of this prospectus supplement, as well as the "Risk Factors" incorporated by reference from our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2013, before making a decision to invest in our common stock.**

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

**Jefferies                      KeyBanc Capital Markets                      MLV & Co.                      Raymond James & Associates**

The date of this prospectus supplement is September 19, 2014.

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## **ABOUT THIS PROSPECTUS SUPPLEMENT**

This prospectus supplement is a supplement to the accompanying prospectus that is also a part of this document. This prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus are part of a registration statement on Form S-3 that we filed with the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission, or SEC, using a “shelf” registration process. The shelf registration statement became effective under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, or the Securities Act, on June 3, 2013. In this prospectus supplement, we provide you with specific information about the terms of this offering. Both this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus, including the information incorporated by reference herein and therein, include important information about us, our common stock and other information you should know before making a decision to invest in our common stock. This prospectus supplement also adds, updates and changes information contained in the accompanying prospectus. To the extent that any statement that we make in this prospectus supplement, including documents incorporated by reference herein, is inconsistent with the statements made in the accompanying prospectus, the statements made in the accompanying prospectus are deemed modified or superseded by the statements made in this prospectus supplement. You should read both this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus as well as the additional information described under the headings “Incorporation of Certain Information by Reference” in the accompanying prospectus and “Where You Can Find More Information” in this prospectus supplement and in the accompanying prospectus before making a decision to invest in our common stock.

You should rely only on the information contained in or incorporated by reference into this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus and any free writing prospectus prepared by us. We have not, and the Agents have not, authorized any other person to provide you with additional or different information. If anyone provides you with additional or different information, you should not rely on it. We are offering to sell and are seeking offers to buy shares of common stock only in jurisdictions where offers and sales are permitted. The information contained in this prospectus supplement, the accompanying prospectus, any such free writing prospectus, as well as information that we previously filed and may file with the SEC that is incorporated by reference herein and therein, is accurate only as of the date such information is presented regardless of the time of delivery of this prospectus supplement, the accompanying prospectus or any such free writing prospectus or the time of any sale of common stock. Our business, financial condition, liquidity, results of operations, funds from operations and prospects may have changed since that date.

## PROSPECTUS SUPPLEMENT SUMMARY

*This summary highlights selected information contained elsewhere in, or incorporated by reference into, this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus. This summary may not contain all the information that you should consider before making a decision to invest in our common stock. You should read this entire prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus carefully, including “Supplemental Risk Factors” in this prospectus supplement, “Risk Factors” in our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2013, our consolidated financial statements and the statements of revenues and certain expenses of certain of our properties incorporated by reference into this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus and the other documents incorporated by reference herein and therein, before making an investment decision. Unless the context indicates otherwise, references in this prospectus supplement to “we,” “our Company,” “our” and “us” refer to Retail Opportunity Investments Corp., a Maryland corporation, and its subsidiaries, including Retail Opportunity Investments Partnership, LP, a Delaware limited partnership, which we refer to as the “Operating Partnership.”*

### Overview

Retail Opportunity Investments Corp. is a fully integrated and self-managed real estate investment trust, or REIT. We specialize in the acquisition, ownership and management of necessity-based community and neighborhood shopping centers on the west coast of the United States, anchored by supermarkets and drugstores.

We are organized in a traditional umbrella partnership real estate investment trust, or UpREIT, format pursuant to which our wholly owned subsidiary, Retail Opportunity Investments GP, LLC, serves as the sole general partner of, and conducts substantially all of its business through, the Operating Partnership and its subsidiaries. At June 30, 2014, the Company also owned 96.6% of the limited partnership interests in the Operating Partnership, or operating partnership units.

### Corporate Information

Our principal executive offices are located at 8905 Towne Centre Drive, San Diego, California 92122. Our telephone number at that location is (858) 677-0900.

**The Offering**

Issuer	Retail Opportunity Investments Corp.
Common stock offered	Common stock having an aggregate offering price of up to \$100,000,000.
Use of proceeds	We will contribute the net proceeds from the sale of shares that we may offer under this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus to the Operating Partnership in exchange for operating partnership units. The Operating Partnership intends to use the net proceeds for working capital and general corporate purposes, including future acquisitions and the repayment and refinancing of debt, such as borrowings under our \$350 million revolving credit facility, or the revolving credit facility and our \$200 million unsecured term loan, or the term loan. See “Use of Proceeds.”
Risk factors	You should read carefully the “Supplemental Risk Factors” beginning on page S-4 of this prospectus supplement, as well as the “Risk Factors” incorporated by reference from our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2013, before making a decision to invest in our common stock.
NASDAQ symbol	ROIC
Restrictions on ownership	Our charter contains restrictions on the ownership and transfer of our common stock that are intended, among other purposes, to preserve our qualification as a REIT. Among other things, our charter provides that, subject to certain exceptions, no person or entity may actually or beneficially own, or be deemed to own by virtue of the applicable constructive ownership provisions of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended, or the Code, more than 9.8% (in value or in number of shares, whichever is more restrictive) of the outstanding shares of our common stock or 9.8% (in value or in number of shares, whichever is more restrictive) of the aggregate of the outstanding shares of our capital stock. See “Description of Common Stock—Restrictions on Ownership and Transfer” in the accompanying prospectus.
Conflicts of interest	Affiliates of certain of the Agents are lenders under our revolving credit facility and our term loan, and will receive their pro rata portions of any net proceeds of the offering used to repay borrowings under our revolving credit facility or our term loan.

## SUPPLEMENTAL RISK FACTORS

*You should carefully consider the risks described below and the risks described under the heading “Risk Factors” on page 11 of our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2013, as the same may be updated from time to time by our future filings under the Exchange Act, before making an investment decision. You should also refer to the other information included in, or incorporated by reference into, this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus, including our consolidated financial statements, and related notes, and the statements of revenues and certain expenses of certain of our properties, and related notes, incorporated by reference into this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus. The risks and uncertainties described below and in the documents incorporated by reference herein are not the only risks and uncertainties we face. Additional risks and uncertainties not presently known to us or that we currently deem immaterial also may materially and adversely affect us. If certain of the risks described below or in the risk factors incorporated by reference herein actually occur, our business, financial condition, liquidity, results of operations, funds from operations and prospects would suffer, potentially materially. In that event the trading price of our common stock could decline, and you may lose all or part of your investment in our common stock. The risk factors discussed below and incorporated by reference into this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus also include forward-looking statements and our actual results may differ substantially from those discussed in these forward-looking statements. See “Statements Regarding Forward-Looking Information.”*

### **The market price for our common stock may be volatile.**

The price at which the shares of our common stock may be sold in the public market after they are purchased pursuant to this prospectus supplement may be lower than the price at which they are sold through or by an Agent. The market price of our shares of common stock may be volatile and be subject to wide fluctuations. Fluctuations in our stock price may not reflect our historical financial performance and condition and prospects. Our stock price may fluctuate as a result of factors that are beyond our control or unrelated to our historical financial performance and condition and prospects. We cannot assure you that the market price of our shares of common stock will not be volatile or fluctuate or decline significantly in the future. In addition, the stock market in general can experience considerable price and volume fluctuations that may be unrelated to our historical performance and condition and prospects.

### **Sales of our common stock may depress the price of our common stock and be dilutive to holders of our common stock.**

We cannot predict the effect, if any, that future issuances or sales of our common stock, preferred stock, warrants or debt securities convertible into or exercisable or exchangeable for common stock, including sales of our common stock pursuant to one or more of the Sales Agreements, or the availability of our securities for future issuance or sale, will have on the market price of shares of our common stock. Issuances or sales of substantial amounts of our common stock, preferred stock, warrants or debt securities convertible into or exercisable or exchangeable for common stock, including sales of our common stock pursuant to one or more of the Sales Agreements, or the perception that such issuances or sales might occur, could negatively impact the market price of our common stock and the terms upon which we may obtain additional equity financing in the future. Preferred stock we issue will generally be senior to our common stock with respect to dividends and liquidation rights. The issuance of any additional shares of our common stock or securities convertible into or exchangeable for common stock or that represent the right to receive common stock, or the exercise of such securities, could be substantially dilutive to holders of our common stock, including purchasers of common stock in this offering. The exercise of any options, the vesting of any restricted stock granted to directors, executive officers and other employees, the exercise of warrants, the buy-back of warrants and other issuances of our common stock could have an adverse effect on the market price of our common stock, and the existence of options and our common stock reserved for issuance under our 2009 Equity Incentive Plan and warrants may adversely affect the terms upon which we may be able to obtain additional capital through the sale of equity securities.

## STATEMENTS REGARDING FORWARD-LOOKING INFORMATION

When used in this discussion and elsewhere in this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus and the documents incorporated by reference herein and therein, the words “believes,” “anticipates,” “projects,” “should,” “estimates,” “expects,” and similar expressions are intended to identify forward-looking statements within the meaning of that term in Section 27A of the Securities Act and in Section 21F of the Exchange Act. Actual results may differ materially due to uncertainties, including:

- our ability to identify and acquire retail real estate that meet our investment standards in our markets;
- the level of rental revenue and net interest income we achieve from our assets;
- the market value of our assets and the supply of, and demand for, retail real estate in which we invest;
- the state of the U.S. economy generally, or in specific geographic regions;
- the impact of economic conditions on our business;
- the conditions in the local markets in which we operate and our concentration in those markets, as well as changes in national economic and market conditions;
- consumer spending and confidence trends;
- our ability to enter into new leases or to renew leases with existing tenants at the properties we own or acquire at favorable rates;
- our ability to anticipate changes in consumer buying practices and the space needs of tenants;
- the competitive landscape impacting the properties we own or acquire and their tenants;
- our relationships with our tenants and their financial condition and liquidity;
- our ability to continue to qualify as a REIT for U.S. federal income tax purposes;
- our use of debt as part of our financing strategy and our ability to make payments or to comply with any covenants under our senior unsecured notes, our term loan, our revolving credit facility or other debt facilities we currently have or subsequently obtain;
- the level of our operating expenses, including amounts we are required to pay to our management team and to engage third party property managers;
- changes in interest rates that could impact the market price of our common stock and the cost of our borrowings;
- the exercise, or level of exercise, of warrants exercisable for our common stock at an exercise price of \$12.00 per share; and
- legislative and regulatory changes (including changes to laws governing the taxation of REITs).

We caution that the foregoing list of factors is not all-inclusive. All subsequent written and oral forward-looking statements concerning us or any person acting on our behalf are expressly qualified in their entirety by the cautionary statements above. We caution not to place undue reliance upon any forward-looking statements, which speak only as of the date made. The forward-looking statements contained in this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus and the documents incorporated by reference herein and therein reflect our beliefs, assumptions and expectations of our future performance, taking into account all information currently available to us. Forward-looking statements are not predictions of future events. These beliefs, assumptions and expectations are subject to risks and uncertainties and can change as a result of many possible events or factors, not all of which are known to us. Some of these factors are described on page S-4 of this prospectus supplement or are included in our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2013, which is incorporated by reference into this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus, as the same may be updated from



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time to time by our future filings under the Exchange Act. If a change occurs, our business, financial condition, liquidity, results of operations, funds from operations and prospects may vary materially from those expressed in our forward-looking statements. Any forward-looking statement speaks only as of the date on which it is made. New risks and uncertainties arise over time, and it is not possible for us to predict those events or how they may affect us. Except as required by law, we are not obligated to, and do not intend to, update or revise any forward-looking statements, whether as a result of new information, future events or otherwise. You should carefully consider these risks before you make an investment decision with respect to our common stock.

For more information regarding risks that may cause our actual results to differ materially from any forward-looking statements, see “Supplemental Risk Factors” on page S-4 of this prospectus supplement and “Risk Factors” in our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2013.

## USE OF PROCEEDS

We will contribute the net proceeds from the sale of shares that we may offer under this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus to the Operating Partnership in exchange for operating partnership units. The Operating Partnership intends to use the net proceeds for working capital and general corporate purposes, including future acquisitions and the repayment and refinancing of debt, such as borrowings under our revolving credit facility and our term loan.

As of September 11, 2014, we had approximately \$106.3 million outstanding on our revolving credit facility. The initial maturity date of our revolving credit facility is August 29, 2017, subject to a one-year extension option, which may be exercised by us upon satisfaction of certain conditions. The maturity date of our term loan is August 29, 2017. As of September 11, 2014, we had approximately \$200.0 million outstanding under our term loan.

Borrowings under our revolving credit facility and our term loan bear interest on the outstanding principal amount at the applicable rate based on our credit rating level, plus, as applicable, (i) a LIBOR rate determined by reference to the cost of funds for U.S. Dollar deposits for the relevant period, or the Eurodollar Rate, or (ii) a base rate determined by reference to the highest of (a) the federal funds rate plus 0.50%, (b) the rate of interest announced by KeyBank National Association as its “prime rate,” and (c) the Eurodollar Rate plus 1.00%. As of September 11, 2014, the interest rate on our revolving credit facility was 1.26% per annum and the interest rate on our term loan was 1.51% per annum.

KeyBank National Association, an affiliate of KeyBanc Capital Markets Inc., is an Administrative Agent and lender under our revolving credit facility and our term loan. Accordingly, an affiliate of KeyBanc Capital Markets Inc. will receive its pro rata portions of any net proceeds of the offering used to repay borrowings under our revolving credit facility or our term loan.

## SUPPLEMENTAL U.S. FEDERAL INCOME TAX CONSIDERATIONS

The following is a summary of certain additional U.S. federal income tax considerations with respect to the ownership of our common stock. Prospective stockholders should review the discussion in the accompanying prospectus under the heading “U.S. Federal Income Tax Considerations” for a more detailed summary of the U.S. federal income tax consequences of the purchase, ownership and disposition of our common stock and our election to be subject to U.S. federal income tax as a REIT.

### **Tax Aspects of Investments in Partnerships**

#### **General**

On September 27, 2013, our Operating Partnership issued Operating Partnership units in exchange for interests in Terranomics Crossroads Associates, LP and in SARM Five Points Plaza, LLC. As a result we currently treat our Operating Partnership as a partnership for U.S. federal income tax purposes, and the discussion in the accompanying prospectus under the heading “U.S. Federal Income Tax Considerations—Taxation of the Company—Tax Aspects of Investments in Partnerships” now applies to our Operating Partnership.

#### **Entity Classification**

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

If our Operating Partnership were taxable as a corporation, the character of our assets and items of our gross income would change and could preclude us from satisfying the REIT asset tests (particularly the tests generally preventing a REIT from owning more than 10% of the voting securities, or more than 10% of the value of the securities, of a corporation) or the gross income tests as discussed in “—Requirements for Qualification as a REIT,” “—Asset Tests” and “—Gross Income Tests” in the accompanying prospectus, and in turn could prevent us from qualifying as a REIT. See “—Failure to Qualify” in the accompanying prospectus for a discussion of the effect of our failure to meet these tests for a taxable year.

***Tax Allocations With Respect to Partnership Properties***

In connection with our Operating Partnership's issuance of units to third parties, we were treated for U.S. federal income tax purposes as contributing our assets to an existing partnership that held certain appreciated properties. The partnership agreement of our Operating Partnership requires that allocations with respect to such properties be made in a manner consistent with Section 704(c) of the Code, and we and our Operating Partnership have agreed to use the "traditional method" with respect to such appreciated properties. As a result, it is possible that we could be allocated lower amounts of depreciation and other deductions for tax purposes with respect to such properties, and could be allocated taxable gain in excess of our corresponding economic or book gain in the event of a sale of such properties, under the principles described in the accompanying prospectus under "U.S. Federal Income Tax Considerations—Taxation of the Company—Tax Aspects of Investments in Partnerships—Tax Allocations With Respect to Partnership Properties."

***Foreign Accounts***

The Foreign Account Tax Compliance Act ("FATCA"), described under "—Foreign Accounts" on pages 46 and 50 of the accompanying prospectus, generally imposes a 30% withholding tax on (i) dividends paid with respect to our common stock after June 30, 2014 and (ii) certain gross proceeds from the disposition of our common stock paid after December 31, 2016 to (a) foreign financial institutions (as defined in Section 1471(d)(4) of the Code) unless they agree to collect and disclose to the Secretary of the Treasury information regarding their direct and indirect U.S. account holders and (b) certain other foreign entities unless they certify certain information regarding their direct and indirect U.S. owners. Certain non-U.S. stockholders residing in jurisdictions with an applicable "intergovernmental agreement" may, in lieu of the foregoing requirements, be required to collect and disclose such information to their own governments. The 30% withholding rate generally applies without regard to reduced rates of withholding or exemptions from withholding available under current law under treaties or existing statutory rules. Under some circumstances, a foreign owner may still be eligible to claim the benefit of such reduced withholding rates and exemptions through a claim for refund.

## **PLAN OF DISTRIBUTION (CONFLICTS OF INTEREST)**

We have entered into separate Sales Agreements with each of the Agents under which we may offer and sell shares of our common stock from time to time having an aggregate offering price of up to \$100,000,000. The sales, if any, of our common stock made under one or more of the Sales Agreements will be made by means of ordinary brokers' transactions or otherwise at market prices prevailing at the time of sale, at prices related to prevailing market prices or at negotiated prices. As sales agents, the Agents will not engage in any transactions that stabilize the price of our common stock.

Under the terms of each Sales Agreement, we also may sell shares of our common stock to the applicable Agent as principal for its own account at a price agreed upon at the time of sale. If we sell shares of our common stock to an Agent as principal, we will enter into a separate terms agreement with such Agent and we will describe this agreement in a separate prospectus supplement or pricing supplement. An Agent may offer common stock sold to it as principal from time to time through public or private transactions at market prices prevailing at the time of sale, at fixed prices, at negotiated prices, at various prices determined at the time of sale or at prices related to prevailing market prices.

Each Agent will offer our common stock subject to the terms and conditions of the applicable Sales Agreement on a daily basis or as otherwise agreed upon by us and such Agent. We will designate the maximum amount of shares of common stock to be sold through an Agent on a daily basis or otherwise as we and such Agent agree and the minimum price per share at which such shares may be sold. Subject to the terms and conditions of the applicable Sales Agreement, an Agent will use its commercially reasonable efforts to sell on our behalf the shares of our common stock to be offered by us under such Sales Agreement. We may instruct an Agent not to sell shares of common stock if the sales cannot be effected through the Agent at or above the price designated by us in any such instruction. Pursuant to each Sales Agreement, we will only sell shares of our common stock on any given trading day through one Agent. We or an Agent may suspend the offering of shares of our common stock by notifying the other party.

We will pay each Agent a commission of up to 2.0% of the gross sales price of our common stock sold through it as sales agent under the applicable Sales Agreement. The remaining proceeds, after deducting any transaction fees imposed by any governmental or self-regulatory organization in respect of the sales and the expenses described below, will equal our net proceeds for the sale of such shares. We estimate that the total expenses of the offering payable by us, excluding commissions under the Sales Agreements, will be approximately \$200,000.

Each Agent will provide to us written confirmation following the close of trading on NASDAQ each day in which shares of common stock are sold by such Agent under the applicable Sales Agreement. Each confirmation will include the number of shares sold by such Agent on that day, the gross sales proceeds, the compensation payable by us to such Agent and the proceeds to us (net of such compensation and regulatory transaction fees). We will report at least quarterly the number of shares of our common stock sold through the Agents under the Sales Agreements, the net proceeds to us and the compensation paid by us to the Agents in connection with the sales of such shares.

Settlement for sales of our common stock will occur on the third business day following the date on which any sales were made, or another date agreed by the parties, in return for payment of the proceeds to us net of compensation paid by us to the applicable Agent. There is no arrangement for funds to be received in an escrow, trust or similar arrangement.

The offering of our common stock pursuant to each Sales Agreement will terminate upon the earlier of (1) the sale of shares of our common stock subject to the Sales Agreements having an aggregate offering price of \$100,000,000 and (2) with respect to a particular Sales Agreement, the termination of such Sales Agreement by us or by the applicable Agent.

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In connection with the sale of common stock on our behalf, an Agent may, and in connection with sale of common stock purchased by such Agent as principal will, be deemed to be an “underwriter” within the meaning of the Securities Act, and the compensation paid to such Agent may, or will, as applicable, be deemed to be underwriting commissions. Pursuant to the Sales Agreements, we have agreed to provide indemnification and contribution to the Agents against certain civil liabilities, including liabilities under the Securities Act.

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

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

KeyBank National Association, an affiliate of KeyBanc Capital Markets Inc., is an Administrative Agent and lender under our revolving credit facility and our term loan. Accordingly, an affiliate of KeyBanc Capital Markets Inc. will receive its pro rata portions of any net proceeds of the offering used to repay borrowings under our revolving credit facility or our term loan.

## LEGAL MATTERS

Certain legal matters relating to this offering will be passed upon for us by Clifford Chance US LLP, New York, New York. In addition, the description of U.S. federal income tax consequences contained in the section of the accompanying prospectus entitled “U.S. Federal Income Tax Considerations,” as supplemented by the section in this prospectus supplement entitled “Supplemental U.S. Federal Income Tax Considerations,” is based on the opinion of Clifford Chance US LLP. Certain matters of Maryland law will be passed upon for us by Venable LLP, Baltimore, Maryland. Sidley Austin LLP, New York, New York, will act as counsel to the Agents.

## EXPERTS

The consolidated financial statements of Retail Opportunity Investments Corp. appearing in Retail Opportunity Investments Corp.’s Annual Report (Form 10-K) for the year ended December 31, 2013 (including the schedules appearing therein), and the effectiveness of Retail Opportunity Investments Corp.’s internal control over financial reporting as of December 31, 2013 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 and Retail Opportunity Investments Corp.’s management’s assessment of the effectiveness of internal control over financial reporting as of December 31, 2013 are incorporated herein by reference in reliance upon such reports given on the authority of such firm as experts in accounting and auditing.

The (i) Statement of Revenues and Certain Expenses of Canyon Crossing Shopping Center included in Retail Opportunity Investments Corp.’s Current Report on Form 8-K filed with the SEC on May 29, 2013; (ii) Statement of Revenues and Certain Expenses of Diamond Hills Plaza included in Retail Opportunity Investments Corp.’s Current Report on Form 8-K filed with the SEC on May 29, 2013; (iii) Statement of Revenues and Certain Expenses of Hawthorne Crossings included in Retail Opportunity Investments Corp.’s Current Report on Form 8-K filed with the SEC on August 1, 2013; (iv) Statement of Revenues and Certain Expenses of Crossroads Shopping Center included in Retail Opportunity Investments Corp.’s Current Report on Form 8-K/A filed with the SEC on December 10, 2013; (v) Statement of Revenues and Certain Expenses of Five Points Plaza Shopping Center included in Retail Opportunity Investments Corp.’s Current Report on Form 8-K/A filed with the SEC on December 10, 2013; (vi) Statement of Revenues and Certain Expenses of Creekside Plaza included in Retail Opportunity Investments Corp.’s Current Report on Form 8-K filed with the SEC on July 3, 2014; (vii) Statement of Revenues and Certain Expenses of North Park Plaza included in Retail Opportunity Investments Corp.’s Current Report on Form 8-K filed with the SEC on July 3, 2014; and (viii) Combined Statement of Revenues and Certain Expenses of Fallbrook Shopping Center included in Retail Opportunity Investments Corp.’s Current Report on Form 8-K/A filed with the SEC on August 11, 2014 all have been audited by PKF O’Connor Davies, independent auditors, as stated in their reports, which are incorporated herein by reference in reliance upon the reports of such firm as experts in accounting and auditing.

## WHERE YOU CAN FIND MORE INFORMATION

As described in the accompanying prospectus under the caption “Where You Can Find More Information,” we have incorporated by reference in the accompanying prospectus specified documents that we have filed or may file with the SEC under the Exchange Act. However, no document, exhibit or information or portion thereof that we have “furnished” or may in the future “furnish” to (rather than “file” with) the SEC shall be incorporated by reference into this prospectus supplement or the accompanying prospectus.

PROSPECTUS

## RETAIL OPPORTUNITY INVESTMENTS CORP.

Common Stock  
Preferred Stock  
Depository Shares  
Warrants  
Rights  
Debt Securities  
Guarantees

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## RETAIL OPPORTUNITY INVESTMENTS PARTNERSHIP, LP

Debt Securities  
Guarantees

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

- shares of common stock, par value \$0.0001 per share;
- shares of preferred stock, par value \$0.0001 per share;
- depository shares representing entitlement to all rights and preferences of fractions of shares of preferred stock of a specified class or series and represented by depository receipts;
- warrants to purchase shares of common stock, preferred stock or depository shares;
- rights to purchase common stock or preferred stock;
- debt securities; or
- guarantees.

The payment of principal, and any premium and interest on the debt securities of Retail Opportunity Investments Corp. may be fully and unconditionally guaranteed by Retail Opportunity Investments Partnership, LP.

Retail Opportunity Investments Partnership, LP may from time to time offer debt securities. The payment of principal, and any premium and interest on the debt securities of Retail Opportunity Investments Partnership, LP may be fully and unconditionally guaranteed by Retail Opportunity Investments Corp.

The common stock, preferred stock, depository shares, warrants, rights, debt securities and guarantees collectively are referred to as the “securities” in this prospectus.

This prospectus describes some of the general terms that may apply to these securities and the general manner in which they may be offered. The specific terms of any securities to be offered, and the specific manner in which they may be offered, will be described in a supplement to this prospectus.

The applicable prospectus supplement will also contain information, where applicable, about certain U.S. federal income tax consequences relating to, and any listing on a securities exchange of, the securities covered by such prospectus supplement. It is important that you read both this prospectus and the applicable prospectus supplement before you invest.

Retail Opportunity Investments Corp. and Retail Opportunity Investments Partnership, LP may offer the securities directly, through agents, or to or through underwriters. The prospectus supplement will describe the terms of the plan of distribution and set forth the names of any underwriters involved in the sale of the securities. See “Plan of Distribution” beginning on page 53 for more information on this topic. No securities may be sold without delivery of a prospectus supplement describing the method and terms of the offering of those securities.

Retail Opportunity Investments Corp.’s common stock, par value \$0.0001 per share, is listed on The Nasdaq Global Select Market under the symbol “ROIC.” On May 31, 2013, the closing sale price of Retail Opportunity Investments Corp.’s common stock on The Nasdaq Global Select Market was \$14.05 per share.

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**An investment in these securities entails certain material risks and uncertainties that should be considered. See “[Risk Factors](#)” beginning on page 4 of Retail Opportunity Investments Corp.’s Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2012 and in our subsequently filed periodic reports incorporated by reference herein.**

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

Prospectus dated June 3, 2013



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You should rely only on the information provided or incorporated by reference in this prospectus, any applicable prospectus supplement or any free writing prospectus. We have not authorized anyone to provide you with different or additional information. We are not making an offer to sell these securities in any jurisdiction where the offer or sale of these securities is not permitted. You should not assume that the information appearing in this prospectus, any applicable prospectus supplement, any free writing prospectus or the documents incorporated by reference herein or therein is accurate as of any date other than their respective dates. Our business, financial condition, results of operations and prospects may have changed since those dates.

You should read carefully this entire prospectus, as well as the documents incorporated by reference in this prospectus, before making an investment decision.

**ABOUT THIS PROSPECTUS**

In this prospectus, unless otherwise specified or the context requires otherwise, all references to “the Company,” “our company,” “we,” “our,” and “us” means Retail Opportunity Investments Corp., a Maryland corporation, and one or more of its subsidiaries, including our operating partnership, Retail Opportunity Investments Partnership, LP, a Delaware limited partnership.

This prospectus is part of an automatic shelf registration statement. Under this automatic shelf registration statement, Retail Opportunity Investments Corp. may sell any combination of common stock, preferred stock, depositary shares, warrants, rights, debt securities and guarantees and Retail Opportunity Investments Partnership, LP may sell debt securities and guarantees. The payment of principal, and any premium and interest on the debt securities of Retail Opportunity Investments Corp. may be fully and unconditionally guaranteed by Retail Opportunity Investments Partnership, LP. The payment of principal, and any premium and interest on the debt securities of Retail Opportunity Investments Partnership, LP may be fully and unconditionally guaranteed by Retail Opportunity Investments Corp.

## SUMMARY INFORMATION

Retail Opportunity Investments Corp. is a fully integrated and self-managed real estate investment trust (“REIT”). We specialize in the acquisition, ownership and management of necessity-based community and neighborhood shopping centers in the western and eastern regions of the United States anchored by national and regional supermarkets and drugstores. We refer to the properties we target for investments as our target assets.

We are organized in a traditional umbrella partnership real estate investment trust (“UpREIT”) format pursuant to which Retail Opportunity Investments GP, LLC, Retail Opportunity Investments Corp.’s wholly-owned subsidiary, serves as the general partner of, and we conduct substantially all of our business through, our operating partnership, Retail Opportunity Investments Partnership, LP, and its subsidiaries. At March 31, 2013, Retail Opportunity Investments Corp. owned 100% of the limited partnership interests in Retail Opportunity Investments Partnership, LP. Retail Opportunity Investments Corp. reincorporated as a Maryland corporation on June 2, 2011. Retail Opportunity Investments Corp. has elected to be taxed as a REIT for U.S. federal income tax purposes commencing with its taxable year ended December 31, 2010.

Our principal executive offices are located at 8905 Towne Centre Drive, San Diego, California 92122. Our telephone number at that location is (858) 677-0900.

**RISK FACTORS**

An investment in our securities involves a high degree of risk. You should carefully consider the risks described in the section captioned “Risk Factors” contained in our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2012 and in subsequent periodic reports which we file with the Securities and Exchange Commission (the “SEC”), each of which are incorporated by reference herein, as well as other information in this prospectus and any applicable prospectus supplement before purchasing our securities. Each of the risks described could materially adversely affect our business, financial condition, results of operations, or ability to make distributions to our stockholders. In such case, you could lose all or a portion of your original investment. See “Where You Can Find More Information” beginning on page 55 of this prospectus.

## STATEMENTS REGARDING FORWARD-LOOKING INFORMATION

When used in this discussion and elsewhere in this prospectus and the documents incorporated by reference herein, the words “believes,” “anticipates,” “projects,” “should,” “estimates,” “expects,” and similar expressions are intended to identify forward-looking statements within the meaning of that term in Section 27A of the Securities Act of 1933, as amended (the “Securities Act”), and in Section 21F of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended (the “Exchange Act”). Actual results may differ materially due to uncertainties including:

- our ability to identify and acquire retail real estate investments that meet our investment standards in our target markets;
- the level of rental revenue and net interest income we achieve from our target assets;
- the market value of our assets and the supply of, and demand for, retail real estate investments in which we invest;
- the length of the current economic downturn;
- the conditions in the local markets in which we operate and our concentration in those markets, as well as changes in national economic and market conditions;
- consumer spending and confidence trends;
- our ability to enter into new leases or to renew leases with existing tenants at the properties we own or acquire at favorable rates;
- our ability to anticipate changes in consumer buying practices and the space needs of tenants;
- the competitive landscape impacting the properties we own or acquire and their tenants;
- our relationships with our tenants and their financial condition and liquidity;
- our ability to continue to qualify as a REIT for U.S. federal income tax purposes;
- our use of debt as part of our financing strategy and our ability to make payments or to comply with any covenants under any borrowings or other debt facilities we currently have or subsequently obtain;
- the level of our operating expenses, including amounts we are required to pay to our management team and to engage third party property managers;
- changes in interest rates that could impact the market price of our common stock and the cost of our borrowings; and
- legislative and regulatory changes (including changes to laws governing the taxation of REITs).

We caution that the foregoing list of factors is not all-inclusive. All subsequent written and oral forward-looking statements concerning us or any person acting on our behalf are expressly qualified in their entirety by the cautionary statements above. We caution not to place undue reliance upon any forward-looking statements, which speak only as of the date made. We do not undertake or accept any obligation or undertaking to release publicly any updates or revisions to any forward-looking statement to reflect any change in our expectations or any change in events, conditions or circumstances on which any such statement is based.

The forward-looking statements contained in this prospectus and the documents incorporated by reference herein reflect our beliefs, assumptions and expectations of our future performance, taking into account all information currently available to us. Forward-looking statements are not predictions of future events. These beliefs, assumptions and expectations are subject to risks and uncertainties and can change as a result of many possible events or factors, not all of which are known to us. Some of these factors are included in our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2012 and in subsequent period reports that we file with the SEC, each of which is incorporated by reference into this prospectus. If a change occurs, our business,

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financial condition, liquidity and results of operations may vary materially from those expressed in our forward-looking statements. Any forward-looking statement speaks only as of the date on which it is made. New risks and uncertainties arise over time, and it is not possible for us to predict those events or how they may affect us. Such new risks and uncertainties may be included in the documents that we file pursuant to Section 13(a), 13(c), 14 or 15(d) of the Exchange Act after the date of this prospectus and before the termination of the offerings of the securities offered by this prospectus which will be considered to be incorporated by reference into this prospectus. Except as required by law, we are not obligated to, and do not intend to, update or revise any forward-looking statements, whether as a result of new information, future events or otherwise. You should carefully consider these risks before you make an investment decision with respect to our securities.

For more information regarding risks that may cause our actual results to differ materially from any forward-looking statements, see “Risk Factors” in our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2012 and in the other documents that we file pursuant to Section 13(a), 13(c), 14 or 15(d) of the Exchange Act after the date of this prospectus, which will be considered to be incorporated by reference into this prospectus.

**RATIO OF EARNINGS TO COMBINED FIXED CHARGES AND PREFERENCE DIVIDENDS**

The following tables set forth Retail Opportunity Investments Corp.'s ratio of earnings to combined fixed charges and preferred stock dividends and Retail Opportunity Investments Partnership, LP's ratio of earnings to combined fixed charges and preferred equity distributions for the periods indicated. The ratios were computed by dividing earnings by fixed charges. For purposes of calculating the ratios, "earnings" represent net income (loss) less equity in earnings from unconsolidated joint ventures and interest capitalized plus fixed charges and distribution of cumulative earnings from unconsolidated joint ventures. "Fixed charges" consist of interest expense, interest capitalized and amortization of financing costs, whether expensed or capitalized. This ratio is calculated in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States.

**Retail Opportunity Investments Corp.**

	Three Months Ended	Year Ended December 31,				
	March 31, 2013	2012	2011	2010	2009	2008
Ratio of earnings to combined fixed charges and preferred stock dividends (1)	1.53x	1.60x	2.52x	0.85x	— (2)	— (2)

- (1) Retail Opportunity Investments Corp. had no shares of preferred stock outstanding during the periods presented.  
(2) Retail Opportunity Investments Corp. had no fixed charges during the period and accordingly no ratios are shown.

**Retail Opportunity Investments Partnership, LP**

	Three Months Ended	Year Ended December 31,				
	March 31, 2013	2012	2011	2010	2009	2008
Ratio of earnings to combined fixed charges and preferred equity distributions (1)	1.53x	1.60x	2.52x	0.85x	— (2)(3)	— (2)(3)

- (1) Retail Opportunity Investments Partnership, LP had no preferred equity interests outstanding during the periods presented.  
(2) Retail Opportunity Investments Partnership, LP was formed on October 21, 2009.  
(3) Retail Opportunity Investments Partnership, LP had no fixed charges during the period and accordingly no ratios are shown.

## **USE OF PROCEEDS**

Unless otherwise specified in the applicable prospectus supplement, Retail Opportunity Investments Corp. and Retail Opportunity Investments Partnership, LP intend to use the net proceeds from the sale of the securities for general corporate purposes, including acquiring target assets, and other uses. These other uses may include, among others, the repayment of indebtedness. If Retail Opportunity Investments Corp. issues any debt securities, it may lend those proceeds to Retail Opportunity Investments Partnership, LP. Further details relating to the use of the net proceeds will be set forth in the applicable prospectus supplement.



## DESCRIPTION OF SECURITIES OF RETAIL OPPORTUNITY INVESTMENTS CORP.

*The following descriptions of the material terms of the securities of Retail Opportunity Investments Corp. are only a summary and are subject to, and qualified in their entirety by reference to, the more complete descriptions of the securities in the following documents: (a) Retail Opportunity Investments Corp.'s amended and restated charter, and (b) Retail Opportunity Investments Corp.'s bylaws, copies of which are exhibits to the registration statement of which this prospectus is a part. Please note that in this section references to "we," "our" and "us" refer only to Retail Opportunity Investments Corp. and not to its subsidiaries or Retail Opportunity Investments Partnership, LP, unless the context requires otherwise. These summary descriptions are not meant to be complete descriptions of each security. The particular terms of any security will be described in the applicable prospectus supplement. See "Where You Can Find More Information."*

### Description of Common Stock

Retail Opportunity Investments Corp. was formed on July 10, 2007. Retail Opportunity Investments Corp.'s charter provides that it may issue up to 500,000,000 shares of common stock, par value \$0.0001 per share, and up to 50,000,000 shares of preferred stock, par value \$0.0001 per share. Retail Opportunity Investments Corp.'s charter authorizes its board of directors to amend its charter by a majority vote of the entire board of directors and without stockholder approval to increase or decrease the aggregate number of authorized shares of stock or the authorized number of shares of stock of any class or series. As of May 31, 2013, 67,247,801 shares of Retail Opportunity Investments Corp.'s common stock were issued and outstanding. Under Maryland law, Retail Opportunity Investments Corp.'s stockholders will not be personally liable for any of our debts or obligations solely as a result of their status as stockholders.

Our common stock offered hereby will be duly authorized, validly issued, fully paid and nonassessable. Subject to the preferential rights, if any, of holders of any other class or series of our stock and to the provisions of our charter regarding the restrictions on ownership and transfer of our stock, holders of outstanding shares of common stock are entitled to receive dividends and other distributions on such shares of common stock out of assets legally available for such purposes if, as and when authorized by our board of directors and declared by us, and the holders of outstanding shares of common stock are entitled to share ratably in our assets legally available for distribution to our stockholders in the event of our liquidation, dissolution or winding up after payment of or adequate provision for all our known debts and liabilities and payment of any liquidation amounts for any issued and outstanding preferred stock.

Subject to the provisions of our charter regarding the restrictions on ownership and transfer of our stock and except as may otherwise be specified in the terms of any class or series of stock, each outstanding share of common stock entitles the holder to one vote on all matters submitted to a vote of stockholders, including the election of directors and, except as provided with respect to any other class or series of stock, the holders of shares of common stock will possess the exclusive voting power. A plurality of the votes cast in the election of directors is sufficient to elect a director and there is no cumulative voting in the election of directors, which means that the holders of a majority of the outstanding shares of common stock generally 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 common stock have no preference, conversion, exchange, sinking fund or redemption rights and have no pre-emptive rights to subscribe for any securities of our company. Our charter provides that our stockholders generally have no appraisal rights unless our board of directors determines prospectively that appraisal rights will apply to one or more transactions in which holders of our common stock would otherwise be entitled to exercise appraisal rights. Subject to the provisions of our charter regarding the restrictions on ownership and transfer of our stock, holders of shares of common stock will have equal dividend, liquidation and other rights.

Under the Maryland General Corporation Law, or the "MGCL", a Maryland corporation generally cannot dissolve, amend its charter, merge or consolidate with another entity, sell all or substantially all of its assets,

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convert to another entity or engage in a statutory share exchange unless the action is advised by its board of directors and approved by the affirmative vote of stockholders entitled to cast at least two-thirds of the votes entitled to be cast 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 specified in the corporation's charter. Our charter provides that these actions (other than certain amendments to the provisions of our charter related to the removal of directors and the restrictions on ownership and transfer of our stock, and the vote required to amend such provisions, which must be approved by the affirmative vote of at least two-thirds of the votes entitled to be cast on the amendment) may be approved by a majority of all of the votes entitled to be cast on the matter.

### ***Power to Reclassify Our Unissued Shares of Stock***

Our charter authorizes our board of directors to classify and reclassify from time to time any unissued shares of common or preferred stock into other classes or series of stock, including one or more classes or series of stock that have priority with respect to voting rights, dividends or upon liquidation over our common stock, and authorizes us to issue the newly-classified shares. Prior to the issuance of shares of each new class or series, our board of directors is required by Maryland law and by our charter to set, subject to the provisions of our charter regarding the restrictions on ownership and transfer of our stock, the preferences, conversion and other rights, voting powers, restrictions, limitations as to dividends and other distributions, qualifications and terms and conditions of redemption for each class or series. Our board of directors may take these actions without stockholder approval unless stockholder approval is required by the rules of any stock exchange or automatic quotation system on which our securities are listed or traded or the terms of any class or series of stock we may issue in the future. Therefore, our board of directors could authorize the issuance of shares of common or preferred stock with terms and conditions that could have the effect of delaying, deferring or preventing a change in control or other transaction that might involve a premium price for shares of our common stock or otherwise be in the best interest of our stockholders. No shares of preferred stock are presently outstanding, and we currently have no plans to issue any shares of preferred stock.

### ***Power to Increase or Decrease Authorized Shares of Stock and Issue Additional Shares of Capital Stock***

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

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

In order for us to qualify as a REIT under the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended (the "Code"), shares of our stock must be beneficially owned by 100 or more persons during at least 335 days of a taxable year of 12 months (other than the first year for which an election to be a REIT has been made) or during a proportionate part of a shorter taxable year. Also, not more than 50% of the value of the outstanding shares of our stock may be owned, directly or indirectly, 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). To qualify as a REIT, we must satisfy other requirements as well. See "U.S. Federal Income Tax Considerations—Taxation of the Company—Requirements for Qualification—General."

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Our charter contains restrictions on the ownership and transfer of our common stock and outstanding capital stock which are intended, among other purposes, 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 entity may own, or be deemed to own, beneficially or by virtue of the applicable constructive ownership provisions of the Code, more than 9.8% by value or number of shares, whichever is more restrictive, of the outstanding shares of our common stock, or 9.8% by value or number of shares, whichever is more restrictive, of the outstanding shares of all classes and series of our capital stock. We refer to these limits collectively as the “ownership limit.” An individual or entity is referred to as a “prohibited owner” if, but for the ownership limit or other restrictions on ownership and transfer of our stock described below, had a violative transfer or other event been effective, the individual or entity would have been a beneficial owner or, if appropriate, a record owner of shares of our stock.

The constructive ownership rules under the Code are complex and may cause shares of 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% by value or number of shares, whichever is more restrictive, of the outstanding shares of our common stock, or 9.8% by value or number of shares, whichever is more restrictive, of the outstanding shares of all classes and series of our capital stock (or the acquisition of an interest in an entity that owns, actually or constructively, shares of our stock by an individual or entity), could, nevertheless, cause that individual or entity, or another individual or entity, to constructively own in excess of the applicable ownership limit.

Our board of directors may, in its sole discretion, subject to such conditions as it may determine and the receipt of certain representations and undertakings, prospectively or retroactively, waive the ownership limit or establish a different limit on ownership, or excepted holder limit, for a particular person if the person’s ownership in excess of the ownership limit would not result in our being “closely held” within the meaning of Section 856(h) of the Code (without regard to whether the ownership interest is held during the last half of a taxable year) or otherwise would result in our failing to qualify as a REIT. As a condition of its waiver or grant of excepted holder limit, our board of directors may, but is not required to, require an opinion of counsel or ruling from the Internal Revenue Service, or the IRS, satisfactory to our board of directors in order to determine or ensure our qualification as a REIT and may impose such other conditions and limitations as our board of directors may determine.

In connection with granting a waiver of the ownership limit, creating an excepted holder limit or at any other time, our board of directors may from time to time increase or decrease the ownership limit for all other individuals and entities unless, after giving effect to such increase, five or fewer individuals could beneficially own in the aggregate more than 49.9% by value of the shares of all classes and series of our capital stock then outstanding or we would otherwise fail to qualify as a REIT. Prior to the modification of the ownership limit, our board of directors may require such opinions of counsel, affidavits, undertakings or agreements as it may deem necessary or advisable in order to determine or ensure our qualification as a REIT. A reduced ownership limit will not apply to any person or entity whose percentage ownership of our common stock or stock of all classes and series, as applicable, is in excess of such decreased ownership limit until such time as such individual’s or entity’s percentage ownership of our common stock or stock of all classes and series, as applicable, equals or falls below the decreased ownership limit, but any further acquisition of shares of our common stock or stock of any other class or series, as applicable, in excess of such percentage ownership of our common stock or stock of all classes and series will be in violation of the ownership limit.

Our charter further prohibits:

- any person from beneficially or constructively owning, applying certain attribution rules of the Code, shares of our stock that would result in our being “closely held” under Section 856(h) of the Code (without regard to whether the ownership interest is held during the last half of a taxable year) or otherwise cause us to fail to qualify as a REIT (including, but not limited to, beneficial ownership or constructive ownership that would result in us owning, actually or constructively, an interest in a tenant that is described in Section 856(d)(2)(B) of the Code if the income derived by us from such tenant could cause us to fail to satisfy any of the gross income requirements of Section 856(c) of the Code); and

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- any person from transferring shares of our stock if such transfer would result in shares of our stock being 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 stock that will or may violate the ownership limit or any of the other foregoing restrictions on ownership and transfer of our stock, or who would have owned shares of our stock transferred to a trust as described below, must immediately give us written notice of the event or, in the case of an attempted or proposed transaction, must give at least 15 days prior written notice to us and provide us with such other information as we may request in order to determine the effect of such transfer on our qualification as a REIT. The foregoing restrictions on ownership and transfer of our stock will not apply if our board of directors determines that it is no longer in our best interest to attempt to qualify, or to continue to qualify, as a REIT or that compliance with the restrictions and limitations on ownership and transfer of our stock as described above is no longer required in order for us to qualify as a REIT.

If any transfer of shares of our stock would result in shares of our stock being beneficially owned by fewer than 100 persons, such transfer will be null and void and the intended transferee will acquire no rights in such shares. In addition, if any purported transfer of shares of our stock or any other event would otherwise result in any person violating the ownership limit or an excepted holder limit established by our board of directors or in our being “closely held” under Section 856(h) of the Code (without regard to whether the ownership interest is held during the last half of a taxable year) or otherwise failing to qualify as a REIT, then that number of shares (rounded up to the nearest whole share) that would cause such person to violate such restrictions will be automatically transferred to, and held by, a trust for the exclusive benefit of one or more charitable organizations selected by us and the intended transferee will acquire no rights in such shares. 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 prohibited 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 by the trust. If the transfer to the trust as described above is not automatically effective, for any reason, to prevent violation of the applicable ownership limit or our being “closely held” under Section 856(h) of the Code (without regard to whether the ownership interest is held during the last half of a taxable year) or otherwise failing to qualify as a REIT, then our charter provides that the transfer of the shares will be null and void, and the intended transferee will acquire no rights in such shares.

Shares of our 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 (1) the price paid by the prohibited owner for the shares (or, if the event that resulted in the transfer to the trust did not involve a purchase of such shares of stock at market price, which is generally the last sales price reported on The Nasdaq Global Market on the trading day immediately preceding the day of the event which resulted in the transfer of such shares of stock to the trust, the per-share market price) and (2) the market price on the date we accept, or our designee accepts, such offer. We may reduce this amount by the amount of any dividend or other distribution that we have paid to the prohibited owner before we discovered that the shares had been automatically transferred to the trust and that are then owed to the trustee as described above, and we may pay the amount of any such reduction to the trustee for the benefit of the charitable beneficiary. We have the right to accept such offer until the trustee has sold the shares of our stock held in the trust as discussed below. Upon a sale to us, the interest of the charitable beneficiary in the shares sold terminates, the trustee must distribute the net proceeds of the sale to the prohibited owner and any dividends or other distributions held by the trustee with respect to such shares of 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 limit or the other restrictions on ownership and transfer of our stock. After the sale of the shares, the interest of the charitable beneficiary in the shares transferred to the trust will terminate and the trustee must distribute to the prohibited owner an amount equal to the lesser of (1) the price paid by the prohibited owner for the shares (or, if the event which resulted in the transfer to the trust did not involve a purchase of such shares

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at market price, the market price of the shares) and (2) the sales proceeds (net of commissions and other expenses of sale) received by the trust for the shares. The trustee may reduce the amount payable to the prohibited owner by the amount of any dividend or other distribution that we paid to the prohibited owner before we discovered that the shares had been automatically transferred to the trust and that are then owed to the trustee as described above. Any net sales proceeds in excess of the amount payable to the prohibited owner will be immediately paid to the beneficiary of the trust, together with any dividends or other distributions thereon. In addition, if, prior to discovery by us that shares of stock have been transferred to a trust, such shares of stock are sold by a prohibited owner, then such shares will be deemed to have been sold on behalf of the trust and, to the extent that the prohibited owner received an amount for or in respect of such shares that exceeds the amount that such prohibited owner was entitled to receive, such excess amount must be paid to the trustee upon demand. The prohibited owner has no rights in the shares held by the trustee.

The trustee will be designated by us and must be unaffiliated with us and with any prohibited owner. Prior to the sale of any shares by the trust, the trustee will receive, in trust for the beneficiary of the trust, all dividends and other distributions paid by us with respect to the shares held in trust and may also exercise all voting rights with respect to the shares held in trust. These rights will be exercised for the exclusive benefit of the beneficiary of the trust.

Subject to Maryland law, effective as of the date that the shares have been transferred to the trust, the trustee will have the authority, at the trustee's sole discretion:

- to rescind as void any vote cast by a prohibited owner prior to our discovery that the shares have been transferred to the trust; and
- to recast the vote in accordance with the desires of the trustee acting for the benefit of the beneficiary of the trust.

However, if we have already taken irreversible corporate action, then the trustee may not rescind and recast the vote.

In addition, if our board of directors determines in good faith that a proposed transfer or other event would violate the restrictions on ownership and transfer of our stock, our board of directors may take such action as it deems advisable to refuse to give effect to or to prevent such transfer, including, but not limited to, causing us to redeem the shares of stock, refusing to give effect to the transfer on our books or instituting proceedings to enjoin the transfer.

Every owner of 5% or more (or such lower percentage as is required by the Code or the regulations promulgated thereunder) of our stock, within 30 days after the end of each taxable year, must give us written notice, stating the stockholder's name and address, the number of shares of each class and series of our stock that the stockholder beneficially owns and a description of the manner in which the shares are held. Each such owner must provide to us in writing such additional information as we may request in order to determine the effect, if any, of the stockholder's beneficial ownership on our qualification as a REIT and to ensure compliance with the ownership limit. In addition, each stockholder must provide to us in writing such information as we may request in good faith in order to determine our qualification as a REIT and to comply with the requirements of any taxing authority or governmental authority or to determine such compliance.

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

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

### ***Transfer Agent and Registrar***

The transfer agent and registrar for our common stock is Computershare Shareowner Services, LLC.

## **Description of Preferred Stock**

### ***General***

Our charter provides that we may issue up to 50,000,000 shares of preferred stock, par value of \$0.0001 per share. On May 31, 2013, we had no outstanding shares of preferred stock. Preferred stock may be issued independently or together with any other securities and may be attached to or separate from the securities. The following description of the preferred stock sets forth general terms and provisions of the preferred stock to which any prospectus supplement may relate. The statements below describing the preferred stock are in all respects subject to and qualified in their entirety by reference to the applicable provisions of our charter and bylaws and any applicable articles supplementary designating and setting forth the terms of a class or series of preferred stock. The applicable articles supplementary will be filed with the SEC and incorporated by reference as an exhibit to the registration statement of which this prospectus is a part. The issuance of preferred stock could adversely affect the voting power, dividend rights and other rights of holders of common stock. Our board of directors could establish another class or series of preferred stock that could, depending on the terms of the series, delay, defer or prevent a transaction or a change in control of our company that might involve a premium price for the common stock or otherwise be in the best interest of the holders thereof.

### ***Terms***

Subject to the limitations prescribed by our charter, our board of directors is authorized to classify any unissued shares of preferred stock and to reclassify any previously classified but unissued shares of preferred stock of any series from time to time into one or more classes or series of stock. Prior to issuance of shares of each class or series of preferred stock, our board of directors is required by the MGCL and our charter to fix the preferences, conversion and other rights, voting powers, restrictions, limitations as to dividends and other distributions, qualifications and terms and conditions of redemption for each class or series.

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

- the designation of the class and/or series of preferred stock;
- the voting rights, if any, of the preferred stock;
- the number of shares of the preferred stock, the liquidation preference per share of the preferred stock and the offering price of the preferred stock;
- the dividend rate(s), period(s) and/or payment day(s) or method(s) of calculation thereof applicable to the preferred stock;
- the date from which dividends on the preferred stock shall accumulate, if applicable;
- the procedures for any auction and remarketing, if any, for the preferred stock;
- the provision for a sinking fund, if any, for the preferred stock;
- the provision for, and any restriction on, redemption or repurchase, if applicable, of the preferred stock;
- any listing of the preferred stock on any securities exchange;
- the terms and conditions, if applicable, upon which the preferred stock may or will be convertible into or exchangeable for our common stock or other securities, including the conversion price or manner of calculation thereof;
- the relative ranking and preferences of the preferred stock as to dividend rights and rights upon liquidation, dissolution or winding up of our affairs;
- whether interests in shares of preferred stock would be represented by depository shares;
- any limitations on ownership and restrictions on transfer in addition to those described below;

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- any limitations on the issuance of any class or series of preferred stock ranking senior or equal to any series of preferred stock being offered as to dividend rights and rights upon liquidation, dissolution or the winding up of our affairs;
- a discussion of U.S. federal income tax considerations applicable to the preferred stock; and
- any other specific terms, preferences, conversion and other rights, voting powers, restrictions, limitations as to dividends and other distributions, qualifications and terms and conditions of redemption of the preferred stock.

The terms of each class or series of preferred stock will be described in any prospectus supplement related to such class or series of preferred stock and will contain a discussion of any material Maryland law or material U.S. federal income tax considerations applicable to the preferred stock.

### ***Restrictions on Ownership***

In order for us to qualify as a REIT under the Code, our stock must be beneficially owned by 100 or more persons during at least 335 days of a taxable year of 12 months (other than the first year for which an election to be a REIT has been made) or during a proportionate part of a shorter taxable year. Also, not more than 50% of the value of the outstanding shares of stock may be owned, directly or indirectly, by five or fewer individuals (as defined in the Code to include certain entities such as qualified pension plans) during the last half of a taxable year (other than the first year for which an election to be taxed as a REIT has been made). Our charter contains restrictions on the ownership and transfer of shares of our stock, including preferred stock. See “—Description of Common Stock—Restrictions on Ownership and Transfer” for more detail regarding the restrictions on the ownership and transfer of shares of our stock. The articles supplementary for each class or series of preferred stock may contain additional provisions restricting the ownership and transfer of the preferred stock. The applicable prospectus supplement will specify any additional ownership limit and other restrictions on ownership and transfer of a class or series of preferred stock.

### ***Registrar and Transfer Agent***

We will name the registrar and transfer agent for the preferred stock we issue pursuant to this prospectus in the applicable prospectus supplement.

### ***Description of Depositary Shares***

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

The summary of terms of the depositary shares contained in this prospectus does not purport to be complete and is subject to, and qualified in its entirety by, the provisions of the deposit agreement and the form of designation for the applicable class or series of preferred stock. While the deposit agreement relating to a

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particular class or series of preferred stock may have provisions applicable solely to that class or series of preferred stock, all deposit agreements relating to preferred stock we issue will include the following provisions:

### ***Dividends and Other Distributions***

Each time we pay a cash dividend or make any other type of cash distribution with regard to preferred stock of a class or series, the depositary will distribute to the holder of record of each depositary share relating to that class or series of preferred stock an amount equal to the dividend or other distribution per depositary share that the depositary receives. If there is a distribution of property other than cash, the depositary either will distribute the property to the holders of depositary shares in proportion to the depositary shares held by each of them, or the depositary will, if we approve, sell the property and distribute the net proceeds to the holders of the depositary shares in proportion to the depositary shares held by them.

### ***Withdrawal of Preferred Stock***

A holder of depositary shares will be entitled to receive, upon surrender of depositary receipts representing depositary shares, the number of whole or fractional shares of the applicable class or series of preferred stock and any money or other property to which the depositary shares relate.

### ***Redemption of Depositary Shares***

Whenever we redeem shares of preferred stock held by a depositary, the depositary will be required to redeem, on the same redemption date, depositary shares constituting, in total, the number of shares of preferred stock held by the depositary which we redeem, subject to the depositary's receiving the redemption price of those shares of preferred stock. If fewer than all the depositary shares relating to a class or series of preferred stock are to be redeemed, the depositary shares to be redeemed will be selected by lot or by another method we determine to be equitable.

### ***Voting***

Any time we send a notice of meeting or other materials relating to a meeting to the holders of a class or series of preferred stock to which depositary shares relate, we will provide the depositary with sufficient copies of those materials so they can be sent to all holders of record of the applicable depositary shares, and the depositary will send those materials to the holders of record of the depositary shares on the record date for the meeting. The depositary will solicit voting instructions from holders of depositary shares and will vote or not vote the preferred stock to which the depositary shares relate in accordance with those instructions.

### ***Liquidation Preference***

Upon our liquidation, dissolution or winding up, the holder of each depositary share will be entitled to what the holder of the depositary share would have received if the holder had owned the number of shares (or fraction of a share) of preferred stock which is represented by the depositary share.

### ***Conversion***

If shares of a class or series of preferred stock are convertible into or exchangeable for common stock or other of our securities or property, holders of depositary shares relating to that class or series of preferred stock will, if they surrender depositary receipts representing depositary shares and appropriate instructions to convert or exchange them, receive the shares of common stock or other securities or property into which the number of shares (or fractions of shares) of preferred stock to which the depositary shares relate could at the time be converted or exchanged.



### ***Amendment and Termination of a Deposit Agreement***

We and the depositary may amend a deposit agreement, except that an amendment which materially and adversely affects the rights of holders of depositary shares, or would be materially and adversely inconsistent with the rights granted to the holders of the class or series of preferred stock to which they relate, must be approved by holders of at least two-thirds of the outstanding depositary shares. No amendment will impair the right of a holder of depositary shares to surrender the depositary receipts evidencing those depositary shares and receive the preferred stock to which they relate, except as required to comply with law. We may terminate a deposit agreement with the consent of holders of a majority of the depositary shares to which it relates. Upon termination of a deposit agreement, the depositary will make the whole or fractional shares of preferred stock to which the depositary shares issued under the deposit agreement relate available to the holders of those depositary shares. A deposit agreement will automatically terminate if:

- all outstanding depositary shares to which it relates have been redeemed or converted; or
- the depositary has made a final distribution to the holders of the depositary shares issued under the deposit agreement upon our liquidation, dissolution or winding up.

### ***Miscellaneous***

There will be provisions: (1) requiring the depositary to forward to holders of record of depositary shares any reports or communications from us which the depositary receives with respect to the preferred stock to which the depositary shares relate; (2) regarding compensation of the depositary; (3) regarding resignation of the depositary; (4) limiting our liability and the liability of the depositary under the deposit agreement (generally limited to failure to act in good faith, gross negligence or wilful misconduct); and (5) indemnifying the depositary against certain possible liabilities.

### ***Description of Warrants***

We may issue warrants for the purchase of common stock, preferred stock or depositary shares and may issue warrants independently or together with common stock, preferred stock or depositary shares or attached to, or separate from, such securities. We will issue each series of warrants under a separate warrant agreement between us and a bank or trust company as warrant agent, as specified in the applicable prospectus supplement. The form of the warrant agreement and the form of the warrant certificate will be filed with the SEC and incorporated by reference as an exhibit to the registration statement of which this prospectus is a part.

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

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

- the title of such warrants;
- the aggregate number of such warrants;
- the price or prices at which such warrants will be issued;
- the type and number of securities purchasable upon exercise of such warrants;
- the designation and terms of the other securities, if any, with which such warrants are issued and the number of such warrants issued with each such offered security;
- the date, if any, on and after which such warrants and the related securities will be separately transferable;
- the price at which each security purchasable upon exercise of such warrants may be purchased;

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- the date on which the right to exercise such warrants shall commence and the date on which such right shall expire;
- the minimum or maximum amount of such warrants that may be exercised at any one time;
- information with respect to book-entry procedures, if any;
- any anti-dilution protection;
- a discussion of certain U.S. federal income tax considerations; and
- any other terms of such warrants, including terms, procedures and limitations relating to the transferability, exercise and exchange of such warrants.

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

Each warrant will entitle the holder to purchase for cash such number of shares of common stock, preferred stock or depositary shares, at such exercise price as shall, in each case, be set forth in, or be determinable as set forth in, the applicable prospectus supplement relating to the warrants offered thereby. After the expiration date set forth in the applicable prospectus supplement, unexercised warrants will be void.

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

### **Description of Rights**

We may issue rights to our stockholders for the purchase of shares of common stock or preferred stock. Each series of rights will be issued under a separate rights agreement to be entered into between us and a bank or trust company, as rights agent, all as set forth in the prospectus supplement relating to the particular issue of rights. The rights agent will act solely as our agent in connection with the certificates relating to the rights of such series and will not assume any obligation or relationship of agency or trust for or with any holders of rights certificates or beneficial owners of rights. The form of the rights agreement and the form of the rights certificates relating to each series of rights will be filed with the SEC and incorporated by reference as an exhibit to the registration statement of which this prospectus is a part.

The applicable prospectus supplement will describe the terms of the rights to be issued, including the following, where applicable:

- the date for determining the stockholders entitled to the rights distribution;
- the aggregate number of shares of common stock or preferred stock of a specified class and/or series purchasable upon exercise of such rights and the exercise price;
- the aggregate number of rights being issued;
- the date, if any, on and after which such rights may be transferable separately;
- the date on which the right to exercise such rights shall commence and the date on which such right shall expire;
- any special U.S. federal income tax consequences; and
- any other terms of such rights, including terms, procedures and limitations relating to the distribution, exchange and exercise of such rights.

## DESCRIPTION OF DEBT SECURITIES

Please note that in this section entitled “Description of Debt Securities,” references to “the issuer,” “we,” “our” and “us” refer exclusively to one of (i) Retail Opportunity Investments Corp., as the issuer of the applicable series of securities and not to any subsidiaries unless the context requires otherwise, or (ii) Retail Opportunity Investments Partnership, LP, as the issuer of the applicable series of securities and not to any subsidiaries unless the context requires otherwise. For the purposes of this section, the reference to “issuer” or “issuers” refers to either of Retail Opportunity Investments Corp. and Retail Opportunity Investments Partnership, LP, as the context may require.

### Debt Securities

The issuers may issue debt securities either separately, or together with, or upon the conversion or exercise of or in exchange for, other securities described in this prospectus. Each issuer will issue the debt securities under a separate indenture by and between such issuer and Wells Fargo Bank, National Association, as trustee, which may be amended or supplemented from time to time. In this section, such indentures are referred to as the “indentures.” The following description is a summary of the material provisions of the indentures including references to the applicable section of the indentures. It does not state the indentures in their entirety. You should read the indenture relating to the debt securities of each issuer because it, and not this description, defines the rights of holders of debt securities of such issuer. Except as otherwise defined herein, terms used in this description but not otherwise defined herein are used as defined in the related indenture. Forms of the indentures have been filed with the SEC and incorporated by reference as an exhibit to the registration statement of which this prospectus is a part and you may inspect a copy of each indenture at the designated corporate trust office of the trustee at 1707 Wilshire Blvd, 17th Floor, Los Angeles, California 90017. The indentures are subject to, and are governed by, the Trust Indenture Act of 1939, as amended, or the Trust Indenture Act. If an issuer issues the debt securities under a different indenture, we will file it and incorporate it by reference into the registration statement and describe it in a prospectus supplement.

### General

The debt securities will be the direct obligations of the respective issuer and may be either senior debt securities or subordinated debt securities and may be either secured or unsecured. The indentures do not limit the principal amount of debt securities that the issuers may issue. The issuers may issue debt securities in one or more series. A supplemental indenture may set forth specific terms of each series of debt securities. There will be a prospectus supplement relating to each particular series of debt securities. Reference is made to the prospectus supplement relating to each particular series of debt securities offered thereby for the specific terms thereof, including:

- the title of the debt securities and whether the debt securities are senior or subordinated debt securities;
- any limit upon the aggregate principal amount of a series of debt securities which the issuer may issue;
- the date or dates on which principal of the debt securities will be payable and the amount of principal which will be payable;
- the rate or rates (which may be fixed or variable) at which the debt securities will bear interest, if any, as well as the dates from which interest will accrue, the dates on which interest will be payable, the persons to whom interest will be payable, if other than the registered holders on the record date, and the record date for the interest payable on any payment date;
- the currency or currencies in which principal, premium, if any, and interest, if any, will be paid;
- the place or places where principal, premium, if any, and interest, if any, on the debt securities will be payable and where debt securities which are in registered form can be presented for registration of transfer or exchange;
- any provisions regarding the issuer’s right to prepay debt securities or of holders to require such issuer to prepay debt securities;

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- the right, if any, of holders of the debt securities to convert them into, or exchange them for, shares of common stock of Retail Opportunity Investments Corp. or other securities, including any provisions intended to prevent dilution as a result of the conversion or exchange rights;
- any provisions requiring or permitting the issuer to make payments to a sinking fund which will be used to redeem debt securities or a purchase fund which will be used to purchase debt securities;
- any provisions regarding defeasance or covenant defeasance regarding the Securities;
- any index or formula used to determine the required payments of principal, premium, if any, or interest, if any;
- the percentage of the principal amount of the debt securities which is payable if maturity of the debt securities is accelerated because of a default;
- any special or modified events of default or covenants with respect to the debt securities;
- any security or collateral provisions;
- a discussion of certain U.S. federal income tax considerations;
- whether the debt securities are entitled to the benefits of the guarantee of any guarantor, and whether any such guarantee is made on a senior or subordinated basis and, if applicable, a description of the subordination terms of any such guarantee; and
- any other material terms of the debt securities.

The indentures do not contain any restrictions on the payment of dividends or the repurchase of our securities or any financial covenants. However, supplemental indentures relating to a particular series of debt securities may contain provisions of that type.

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

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

### ***Form of Debt Securities***

The issuers may issue debt securities in certificated or uncertificated form, in registered form with or without coupons or in bearer form with coupons, if applicable.

The issuers may issue debt securities of a series in the form of one or more global certificates evidencing all or a portion of the aggregate principal amount of the debt securities of that series. The issuers may deposit the global certificates with depositaries, and the certificates may be subject to restrictions upon transfer or upon exchange for debt securities in individually certificated form.

### ***Events of Default and Remedies***

An event of default with respect to each series of debt securities will include:

- default by the issuer in payment of the principal of or premium, if any, on any debt securities of any series beyond any applicable grace period;
- default by the issuer for 30 days or a period specified in a supplemental indenture, which may be no period, in payment of any installment of interest due with regard to debt securities of any series;
- default by the issuer for 60 days or a period specified in a supplemental indenture, which may be no period, after notice in the observance or performance of any other covenants in the indenture;

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- default by the issuer or the guarantor under any bond, debenture, note, mortgage, indenture or instrument with an aggregate principal amount outstanding of at least a certain threshold amount described in the related indenture, which default has resulted in such indebtedness becoming or being declared due and payable prior to the date on which it would otherwise have become due and payable, without such indebtedness having been discharged or such acceleration having been rescinded or annulled within a period of 30 days after written notice to the issuer as provided in such indenture; and
- certain events involving our bankruptcy, insolvency or reorganization.

The indentures provide that the trustee may withhold notice to the holders of any series of debt securities of any default (except a default in payment of principal, premium, if any, or interest, if any) if the trustee considers it in the interest of the holders of the series to do so.

The indentures provide that if any event of default has occurred and is continuing, the trustee or the holders of not less than 25% in principal amount of a series of debt securities then outstanding may declare the principal of and accrued interest, if any, on that series of debt securities to be due and payable immediately by written notice to the issuers. However, if the related issuer cures all defaults (except the failure to pay principal, premium or interest which became due solely because of the acceleration) and certain other conditions are met, that declaration may be annulled and past defaults may be waived by the holders of a majority in principal amount of the applicable series of debt securities.

The holders of a majority of the outstanding principal amount of a series of debt securities will have the right to direct the time, method and place of conducting proceedings for any remedy available to the trustee, subject to certain limitations specified in the indenture.

A supplemental indenture relating to a particular series of debt securities may modify these events of default or include other events of default.

A prospectus supplement will describe any additional or different events of default which apply to any series of debt securities.

### ***Modification of the Indenture***

Each issuer and the trustee may:

- without the consent of holders of debt securities, modify the related indenture to cure errors or clarify ambiguities or to conform the indenture to the provisions of the prospectus or applicable prospectus supplement as evidenced in an officers' certificate;
- with the consent of the holders of not less than a majority in principal amount of the debt securities which are outstanding under the related indenture, modify the indenture or the rights of the holders of the debt securities generally; and
- with the consent of the holders of not less than a majority in outstanding principal amount of any series of debt securities, modify any supplemental indenture relating solely to that series of debt securities or the rights of the holders of that series of debt securities.

However, we may not:

- extend the fixed maturity of any debt securities, reduce the rate or extend the time for payment of interest, if any, on any debt securities, reduce the principal amount of any debt securities or the premium, if any, on any debt securities, impair or affect the right of a holder to institute suit for the payment of principal, premium, if any, or interest, if any, with regard to any debt securities, change the currency in which any debt securities

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are payable or impair the right, if any, to convert any debt securities into or exchange any debt securities for other securities or assets, without the consent of each holder of debt securities who will be affected; or

- reduce the percentage of holders of debt securities required to consent to an amendment, supplement or waiver, without the consent of the holders of all the then outstanding debt securities or outstanding debt securities of the series which will be affected.

### ***Mergers and Other Transactions***

Neither issuer may consolidate with or merge into any other entity, or transfer or lease our properties and assets substantially as an entirety to another person, unless: (1) the entity formed by the consolidation or into which such issuer is merged, or which acquires or leases its respective properties and respective assets substantially as an entirety, assumes by a supplemental indenture all of its obligations with regard to outstanding debt securities and our other covenants under the related indenture; (2) with regard to each series of debt securities, immediately after giving effect to the transaction, no event of default, with respect to that series of debt securities, and no event which would become an event of default, will have occurred and be continuing and (3) such issuer will deliver to the trustee an officers' certificate and opinion of counsel, in each case stating that all conditions precedent provided for in the related indenture with respect to the merger or consolidation have been complied with.

### ***Governing Law***

The indentures, each supplemental indenture, and the debt securities issued under them will be governed by, and construed in accordance with, the laws of the State of New York, without regard to conflicts of laws principles thereof (other than Section 5-1401 and 5-1402 of the New York General Obligations law).

## DESCRIPTION OF GUARANTEES

Retail Opportunity Investments Corp. may fully and unconditionally guarantee the due and punctual payment of the principal of, and any premium and interest on, one or more series of debt securities of Retail Opportunity Investments Partnership, LP, whether at maturity, by acceleration, redemption, repayment or otherwise, in accordance with the terms of such guarantee and the applicable indenture. In case of the failure of Retail Opportunity Investments Partnership, LP punctually to pay any principal, premium or interest on any guaranteed debt security, Retail Opportunity Investments Corp. will cause any such payment to be made as it becomes due and payable, whether at maturity, upon acceleration, redemption, repayment or otherwise, and as if such payment were made by Retail Opportunity Investments Partnership, LP. The particular terms of the guarantee, if any, will be set forth in a prospectus supplement relating to the guaranteed debt securities. Any guarantee by Retail Opportunity Investments Corp. will be of payment only and not of collection.

Retail Opportunity Investments Partnership, LP may fully and unconditionally guarantee the due and punctual payment of the principal of, and any premium and interest on, one or more series of debt securities of Retail Opportunity Investments Corp., whether at maturity, by acceleration, redemption, repayment or otherwise, in accordance with the terms of such guarantee and the applicable indenture. In case of the failure of Retail Opportunity Investments Corp. punctually to pay any principal, premium or interest on any guaranteed debt security, Retail Opportunity Investments Partnership, LP will cause any such payment to be made as it becomes due and payable, whether at maturity, upon acceleration, redemption, repayment or otherwise, and as if such payment were made by Retail Opportunity Investments Corp. The particular terms of the guarantee, if any, will be set forth in a prospectus supplement relating to the guaranteed debt securities. Any guarantee by Retail Opportunity Investments Partnership, LP will be of payment only and not of collection.

## DESCRIPTION OF CERTAIN PROVISIONS OF THE MARYLAND GENERAL CORPORATION LAW AND OUR CHARTER AND BYLAWS

*The following summary of certain provisions of Maryland law and of our charter and bylaws does not purport to be complete and is subject to and qualified in its entirety by reference to Maryland law and our charter and bylaws, copies of which are exhibits to the registration statement of which this prospectus is a part. See “Where You Can Find More Information.”*

### **Our Board of Directors**

Our charter and bylaws provide that the number of directors we have may be established only by our board of directors but may not be fewer than the minimum required under the MGCL, which is currently one, and our bylaws provide that the number of our directors may not be more than 15. Subject to the terms of any class or series of stock, vacancies on our board of directors may be filled only by a majority of the remaining directors, even if the remaining directors do not constitute a quorum, and any director elected to fill a vacancy will hold office for the remainder of the full term of the directorship in which the vacancy occurred.

At each annual meeting of our stockholders, our stockholders will elect each of our directors to serve until the next annual meeting of our stockholders and until his or her successor is duly elected and qualifies. A plurality of the votes cast in the election of directors is sufficient to elect a director and holders of shares of common stock will have no right to cumulative voting in the election of directors. Consequently, at each annual meeting of stockholders, subject to any applicable rights of holders of our other securities, the holders of a majority of the shares of common stock entitled to vote will generally be able to elect all of our directors.

### **Removal of Directors**

Our charter provides that, subject to the rights of holders of one or more classes or series of preferred stock to elect or remove one or more directors, a director may be removed, with or without cause, only by the affirmative vote of at least two-thirds of the votes entitled to be cast in the election of directors. This provision, when coupled with the exclusive power of our board of directors to fill vacancies on our board of directors, precludes stockholders from (1) removing incumbent directors except upon a two-thirds vote and (2) filling the vacancies created by such removal with their own nominees.

### **Business Combinations**

Under the MGCL, certain “business combinations” (including a merger, consolidation, statutory share exchange or, in certain circumstances, an asset transfer or issuance or reclassification of equity securities) between a Maryland corporation and an interested stockholder (defined generally as any person who beneficially owns, directly or indirectly, 10% or more of the voting power of the corporation’s outstanding voting stock or an affiliate or associate of the corporation who, at any time during 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) or an affiliate of such an interested stockholder are prohibited for five years after the most recent date on which the interested stockholder becomes an interested stockholder. Thereafter, any such business combination must generally be recommended by the board of directors of such corporation and approved by the affirmative vote of at least (a) 80% of the votes entitled to be cast by holders of outstanding voting stock of the corporation and (b) two-thirds of the votes entitled to be cast by holders of voting stock of the corporation other than shares held by the interested stockholder with whom (or with whose affiliate) the business combination is to be effected or held by an affiliate or associate of the interested stockholder, unless, among other conditions, the corporation’s common stockholders receive a minimum price (as defined in the MGCL) for their shares and the consideration is received in cash or in the same form as previously paid by the interested stockholder for its shares. A person is not an interested stockholder under the statute if the Maryland corporation’s board of directors approved in advance the transaction by which the person otherwise would have become an interested



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stockholder. 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 it.

These provisions of the MGCL do not apply, however, to business combinations that are approved or exempted by a Maryland corporation's board of directors prior to the time that the interested stockholder becomes an interested stockholder. Pursuant to the statute, our board of directors has by resolution exempted business combinations (1) between us and any other person, provided that such business combination is first approved by our board of directors (including a majority of our directors who are not affiliates or associates of such person) and (2) among persons acting in concert with any of the foregoing. As a result, any person described above may be able to enter into business combinations with us that may not be in the best interest of our stockholders, without compliance with the supermajority vote requirements and other provisions of the statute. However, we cannot assure you that our board of directors will not amend or repeal the resolution in the future.

The business combination statute may discourage others from trying to acquire control of us and increase the difficulty of consummating any offer.

### **Control Share Acquisitions**

The MGCL provides that a holder of "control shares" of a Maryland corporation acquired in a "control share acquisition" has no voting rights with respect to such shares except to the extent approved by the affirmative vote of at least two-thirds of the votes entitled to be cast on the matter, excluding shares of stock of the corporation in respect of which any of the following persons is entitled to exercise or direct the exercise of the voting power of such shares in the election of directors: (i) a person who has made or proposes to make the 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 owned by the acquirer, or in respect of which the acquirer is able to exercise or direct the exercise of voting power (except solely by virtue of a revocable proxy), would entitle the acquirer to exercise voting power in electing directors within one of the following ranges of voting power: (A) one-tenth or more but less than one-third; (B) one-third or more but less than a majority; or (C) a majority of all voting power. Control shares do not include shares that the acquiring person is then entitled to vote as a result of having previously obtained stockholder approval or shares acquired directly from the corporation. A "control share acquisition" means the acquisition, directly or indirectly, of 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 and making an "acquiring person statement" as described in the MGCL), may compel the corporation's 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 acquirer or as 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 acquirer becomes entitled to exercise or direct the exercise of a majority of all voting power, 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 acquirer in the control share acquisition.

The control share acquisition statute does not apply to, among other things, (a) shares acquired in a merger, consolidation or statutory share exchange if the corporation is a party to the transaction or (b) acquisitions approved or exempted by the charter or bylaws of the corporation.

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Our bylaws contain a provision exempting from the control share acquisition statute any and all acquisitions by any person of shares of our stock. There is no assurance that such provision will not be amended or eliminated at any time in the future.

### **Subtitle 8**

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

- a classified board;
- a two-thirds vote requirement for removing a director;
- a requirement that the number of directors be fixed only by vote of the board of directors;
- a requirement that a vacancy on the board be filled only by the remaining directors in office and for the remainder of the full term of the class of directors in which the vacancy occurred; and
- a majority requirement for the calling of a stockholder-requested special meeting of stockholders.

We have elected in our charter to be subject to the provision of Subtitle 8 that provides that vacancies on our board may be filled only by the remaining directors and that directors elected to fill vacancies will serve for the remainder of the term of the directorship in which the vacancy occurred. Through provisions in our charter and bylaws unrelated to Subtitle 8, we already (1) will require the affirmative vote of stockholders entitled to cast not less than two-thirds of all of the votes entitled to be cast generally in the election of directors for the removal of any director, which removal may be with or without cause, (2) vest in the board the exclusive power to fix the number of directorships and (3) require, unless called by the chairman of our board of directors, chief executive officer, president or board of directors, the written request of stockholders entitled to cast a majority of all votes entitled to be cast at such a meeting on such matter to call a special meeting on any matter.

### **Meetings of Stockholders**

Pursuant to our bylaws, a meeting of our stockholders for the election of directors and the transaction of any business will be held annually on a date and at the time and place set by our board of directors. The chairman of our board of directors, our chief executive officer, our president or our board of directors may call a special meeting of our stockholders. Subject to the provisions of our bylaws, a special meeting of our stockholders to act on any matter that may properly be brought before a meeting of our stockholders will also be called by our secretary upon the written request of the stockholders entitled to cast a majority of all the votes entitled to be cast at the meeting on such matter and containing the information required by our bylaws. Our secretary will inform the requesting stockholders of the reasonably estimated cost of preparing and delivering the notice of meeting (including our proxy materials), and the requesting stockholder must pay such estimated cost before our secretary is required to prepare and deliver the notice of the special meeting.

### **Amendment to Our Charter and Bylaws**

Except for amendments to the provisions of our charter relating to the removal of directors and the restrictions on ownership and transfer of our stock, and the vote required to amend these provisions (each of which must be advised by our board of directors and approved by the affirmative vote of stockholders entitled to cast at least two-thirds of all the votes entitled to be cast on the matter), our charter generally may be amended only if advised by our board of directors and approved by the affirmative vote of stockholders entitled to cast a majority of all of the votes entitled to be cast on the matter.

Our board of directors has the exclusive power to adopt, alter or repeal any provision of our bylaws and to make new bylaws.

### **Dissolution of Our Company**

The dissolution of our company must be advised by a majority of our entire board of directors and approved by the affirmative vote of stockholders entitled to cast a majority of all of the votes entitled to be cast on the matter.

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

Our bylaws provide that, with respect to an annual meeting of stockholders, nominations of individuals for election to our board of directors and the proposal of other business to be considered by our stockholders may be made only (1) pursuant to our notice of the meeting, (2) by or at the direction of our board of directors or (3) by a stockholder who was a stockholder of record both at the time of giving the notice required by our bylaws and at the time of the meeting, who is entitled to vote at the meeting on such business or in the election of each such nominee and who has provided notice to us within the time period, containing the information specified by the advance notice provisions set forth in our bylaws.

With respect to special meetings of stockholders, only the business specified in our notice of meeting may be brought before the meeting. Nominations of individuals for election to our board of directors may be made only (1) by or at the direction of our board of directors or (2) provided that the meeting has been properly called for the purpose of electing directors, by a stockholder who was a stockholder of record both at the time of giving the notice required by our bylaws and at the time of the special meeting, who is entitled to vote at the meeting in the election of each such nominee and who has provided notice to us within the time period, containing the information specified by the advance notice provisions set forth in our bylaws.

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

Our charter and bylaws and Maryland law contain provisions that may delay, defer or prevent a change in control or other transaction that might involve a premium price for shares of our common stock or otherwise be in the best interest of our stockholders, including business combination provisions, supermajority vote requirements and advance notice requirements for certain charter amendments, the removal of directors, for director nominations and stockholder proposals. Likewise, if the board were to revise or rescind the resolution related to the business combinations, if the provision in our bylaws opting out of the control share acquisition provisions of the MGCL were rescinded or if we were to opt into the classified board or other provisions of Subtitle 8, these provisions of the MGCL could have similar anti-takeover effects.

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

Maryland law permits a Maryland corporation to include in its charter a provision eliminating 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 that was established by a final judgment and was material to the cause of action. Our charter contains a provision that eliminates the liability of our directors and officers to us and our stockholders to the maximum extent permitted by Maryland law.

The MGCL requires us (unless our charter provides otherwise, which our charter does not) to indemnify any of our directors or officers who have 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 with us. The MGCL permits us to indemnify our present and former directors and officers, among others, against judgments, penalties, fines, settlements and reasonable expenses actually incurred by them in connection with any proceeding to which they may be made or threatened to be made a party by reason of their service in those or other capacities unless it is established that:

- the act or omission of the director or officer was material to the matter giving rise to the proceeding and (1) was committed in bad faith or (2) was the result of active and deliberate dishonesty;

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- 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.

Under the MGCL, we may not indemnify a director or officer in a suit brought by us or in our right in which the director or officer was adjudged liable to us or in a suit in which the director or officer was adjudged liable on the basis that personal benefit was improperly received. A court may order indemnification if it determines that the director or officer is fairly and reasonably entitled to indemnification, even though the director or officer did not meet the prescribed standard of conduct or was adjudged liable on the basis that personal benefit was improperly received. However, indemnification for an adverse judgment in a suit by us or in our right, or for a judgment of liability on the basis that personal benefit was improperly received, is limited to expenses.

In addition, the MGCL permits us to advance reasonable expenses to a director or officer upon our receipt of:

- a written affirmation by the director or officer of his or her good faith belief that he or she has met the standard of conduct necessary for indemnification by us; and
- a written undertaking by the director or officer or on the director's or officer's behalf to repay the amount paid or reimbursed by us if it is ultimately determined that the director or officer did not meet the standard of conduct.

Our charter authorizes us to obligate ourselves and our bylaws obligate us, to the maximum 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 or threatened to be 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 as a director, officer, partner, manager, managing member or trustee of another corporation, real estate investment trust, partnership, limited liability company, joint venture, trust, employee benefit plan or any other enterprise and who is made or threatened to be made a party to the proceeding by reason of his or her service in that capacity.

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

We have entered into indemnification agreements with each of our directors and officers that provide for indemnification to the maximum extent permitted by Maryland law.

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 SEC, this indemnification is against public policy as expressed in the Securities Act and is therefore unenforceable.

### **REIT Qualification**

Our charter provides that our board of directors may authorize us to revoke or otherwise terminate our REIT election, without approval of our stockholders, if it determines that it is no longer in our best interest to continue to qualify as a REIT.

## U.S. FEDERAL INCOME TAX CONSIDERATIONS

The following is a summary of the material U.S. federal income tax consequences relating to our qualification and taxation as a REIT and the acquisition, holding, and disposition of our stock. For purposes of this section under the heading “U.S. Federal Income Tax Considerations,” references to “the company,” “we,” “our” and “us” mean only Retail Opportunity Investments Corp. and not its subsidiaries or other lower-tier entities, except as otherwise indicated. You are urged to both review the following discussion and to consult your tax advisor to determine the effects of ownership and disposition of our shares on your individual tax situation, including any state, local or non-U.S. tax consequences.

This summary is based upon the Code, the regulations promulgated by the U.S. Treasury Department (the “Treasury Regulations”), current administrative interpretations and practices of the IRS (including administrative interpretations and practices expressed in private letter rulings which are binding on the IRS only with respect to the particular taxpayers who requested and received those rulings) and judicial decisions, all as currently in effect, and all of which are subject to differing interpretations or to change, possibly with retroactive effect. No assurance can be given that the IRS would not assert, or that a court would not sustain, a position contrary to any of the tax consequences described below. No advance ruling has been or will be sought from the IRS regarding any matter discussed in this summary. This summary is also based upon the assumption that the operation of the company, and of its subsidiaries and other lower-tier and affiliated entities, will in each case be in accordance with its applicable organizational documents or partnership agreements. This summary does not discuss the impact that U.S. state and local taxes and taxes imposed by non-U.S. jurisdictions could have on the matters discussed in this summary. This summary is for general information only, and does not purport to discuss all aspects of U.S. federal income taxation that may be important to a particular stockholder in light of his, her or its investment or tax circumstances, or to stockholders subject to special tax rules, such as:

- U.S. expatriates;
- persons who mark-to-market our stock;
- subchapter S corporations;
- U.S. stockholders, as defined below under “—Taxation of Stockholders—Taxation of Taxable U.S. Stockholders,” whose functional currency is not the U.S. dollar;
- financial institutions;
- insurance companies;
- broker-dealers;
- regulated investment companies (“RICs”);
- REITs;
- trusts and estates;
- holders who receive our stock through the exercise of employee stock options or otherwise as compensation;
- persons holding our stock as part of a “straddle,” “hedge,” “conversion transaction,” “synthetic security” or other integrated investment;
- persons subject to the alternative minimum tax provisions of the Code;
- persons holding their interest through a partnership or similar pass-through entity;
- persons holding a 10% or more (by vote or value) beneficial interest in us;

and, except to the extent discussed below:

- tax-exempt organizations; and

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- non-U.S. stockholders, as defined below under “—Taxation of Stockholders—Taxation of Taxable Non-U.S. Stockholders.”

This summary assumes that stockholders hold our stock as a capital asset, which generally means as property held for investment.

THE U.S. FEDERAL INCOME TAX TREATMENT OF HOLDERS OF OUR STOCK DEPENDS IN SOME INSTANCES ON DETERMINATIONS OF FACT AND INTERPRETATIONS OF COMPLEX PROVISIONS OF U.S. FEDERAL INCOME TAX LAW FOR WHICH NO CLEAR PRECEDENT OR AUTHORITY MAY BE AVAILABLE. IN ADDITION, THE TAX CONSEQUENCES OF HOLDING OUR STOCK TO ANY PARTICULAR STOCKHOLDER WILL DEPEND ON THE STOCKHOLDER’S PARTICULAR TAX CIRCUMSTANCES. YOU ARE URGED TO CONSULT YOUR TAX ADVISOR REGARDING THE U.S. FEDERAL, STATE, LOCAL, AND FOREIGN INCOME AND OTHER TAX CONSEQUENCES TO YOU, IN LIGHT OF YOUR PARTICULAR INVESTMENT OR TAX CIRCUMSTANCES, OF ACQUIRING, HOLDING, AND DISPOSING OF OUR STOCK.

### **Taxation of the Company**

We have elected to be taxed as a REIT under the Code, commencing with our taxable year ended December 31, 2010. We believe that we have been organized and operated and intend to continue to be organized and to operate in a manner that will allow us to qualify for taxation as a REIT under the Code, commencing with our taxable year ended December 31, 2010.

The law firm of Clifford Chance US LLP has acted as our counsel in connection with this offering. We have received the opinion of Clifford Chance US LLP to the effect that, commencing with our taxable year ended December 31, 2010, we have been organized and have operated in conformity with the requirements for qualification and taxation as a REIT under the Code, and our current and proposed method of operation will enable us to continue to meet the requirements for qualification and taxation as a REIT under the Code. The opinion of Clifford Chance US LLP is based on various assumptions relating to our organization and operation, including that all factual representations and statements set forth in all relevant documents, records and instruments are true and correct, and that we will at all times operate in accordance with the method of operation described in this prospectus and our organizational documents. Additionally, the opinion of Clifford Chance US LLP is conditioned upon factual representations and covenants made by our management and affiliated entities regarding our organization, assets, and present and future conduct of our business operations and other items regarding our ability to meet the various requirements for qualification as a REIT, and assumes that such representations and covenants are accurate and complete and that we will take no action that could adversely affect our qualification as a REIT. While we believe that we have been organized and have operated and intend to continue to be organized and to operate so that we will continue to qualify as a REIT, given the highly complex nature of the rules governing REITs, the ongoing importance of factual determinations, and the possibility of future changes in our circumstances or applicable law, no assurance can be given by Clifford Chance US LLP or us that we will so qualify for any particular year. Clifford Chance US LLP will have no obligation to advise us or the holders of our stock of any subsequent change in the matters stated, represented or assumed, or of any subsequent change in the applicable law. You should be aware that opinions of counsel are not binding on the IRS, or any court, and no assurance can be given that the IRS will not challenge the conclusions set forth in such opinions.

Our qualification and taxation as a REIT depend on our ability to meet, on a continuing basis, through actual operating results, distribution levels, and diversity of stock ownership, various qualification requirements imposed upon REITs by the Code, the compliance with which will not be reviewed by Clifford Chance US LLP. In addition, our ability to qualify as a REIT may depend in part upon the operating results, organizational structure and entity classification for U.S. federal income tax purposes of certain entities in which we invest. Our ability to qualify as a REIT for a particular year also requires that we satisfy certain asset and income tests during

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such year, some of which depend upon the fair market values of assets directly or indirectly owned by us. Such values may not be susceptible to a precise determination. Accordingly, no assurance can be given that the actual results of our operations for any taxable year will satisfy such requirements for qualification and taxation as a REIT.

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

As indicated above, our qualification and taxation as a REIT for a particular year depend upon our ability to meet, on a continuing basis during such year, through actual results of operations, distribution levels, diversity of share ownership and various qualification requirements imposed upon REITs by the Code. The material qualification requirements are summarized below under “—Requirements for Qualification—General.” While we intend to operate so that we qualify as a REIT, no assurance can be given that the IRS will not challenge our qualification as a REIT, or that we will be able to operate in accordance with the REIT requirements in the future. See “—Failure to Qualify.”

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

U.S. stockholders who are individuals are generally taxed on corporate dividends at a maximum rate of 20% (the same as long-term capital gains), thereby substantially reducing, though not completely eliminating, the double taxation that has historically applied to corporate dividends. With limited exceptions, however, dividends received by individual U.S. stockholders from us or from other entities that are taxed as REITs will continue to be taxed at rates applicable to ordinary income, which are as high as 39.6%. Net operating losses, foreign tax credits and other tax attributes of a REIT generally do not pass through to the stockholders of the REIT, subject to special rules for certain items such as capital gains recognized by REITs. See “—Taxation of Stockholders.”

If we qualify as a REIT, we will nonetheless be subject to U.S. federal income tax as follows:

- We will be taxed at regular corporate rates on any undistributed income, including undistributed net capital gains.
- We may be subject to the “alternative minimum tax” on our items of tax preference, if any.
- If we have net income from prohibited transactions, which are, in general, sales or other dispositions of property held primarily for sale to customers in the ordinary course of business, other than foreclosure property, as described below, such income will be subject to a 100% tax. See “—Requirements for Qualification—General—Prohibited Transactions,” and “—Requirements for Qualification—General—Foreclosure Property,” below.
- If we elect to treat property that we acquire in connection with a foreclosure of a mortgage loan or leasehold as “foreclosure property,” we may thereby avoid (1) the 100% tax on gain from a resale of that property (if the sale would otherwise constitute a prohibited transaction), and (2) the inclusion of any income from such property not qualifying for purposes of the REIT gross income tests discussed below, but the income from the sale or operation of the property may be subject to corporate income tax at the highest applicable rate (currently 35%).
- If we fail to satisfy the 75% gross income test or the 95% gross income test, as discussed below, but nonetheless maintain our qualification as a REIT because other requirements are met, we will be subject to a 100% tax on an amount equal to (1) the greater of (A) the amount by which we fail the 75% gross income test or (B) the amount by which we fail the 95% gross income test, as the case may be, multiplied by (2) a fraction intended to reflect our profitability.

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- If we fail to satisfy any of the REIT asset tests, as described below, other than a failure of the 5% or 10% REIT assets tests that does not exceed a statutory *de minimis* amount as described more fully below, but our failure is due to reasonable cause and not due to wilful neglect and we nonetheless maintain our REIT qualification because of specified cure provisions, we will be required to pay a tax equal to the greater of \$50,000 or the highest corporate tax rate (currently 35%) of the net income generated by the nonqualifying assets during the period in which we failed to satisfy the asset tests.
- If we fail to satisfy any provision of the Code that would result in our failure to qualify as a REIT (other than a gross income or asset test requirement) and that violation is due to reasonable cause, we may retain our REIT qualification, but we will be required to pay a penalty of \$50,000 for each such failure.
- If we fail to distribute during each calendar year at least the sum of (1) 85% of our REIT ordinary income for such year, (2) 95% of our REIT capital gain net income for such year and (3) any undistributed taxable income from prior periods, or the “required distribution,” we will be subject to a 4% non-deductible excise tax on the excess of the required distribution over the sum of (A) the amounts actually distributed (taking into account excess distributions from prior years), plus (B) retained amounts on which U.S. federal income tax is paid at the corporate level.
- We may be required to pay monetary penalties to the IRS in certain circumstances, including if we fail to meet record-keeping requirements intended to monitor our compliance with rules relating to the composition of our stockholders, as described below in “—Requirements for Qualification—General.”
- A 100% excise tax may be imposed on some items of income and expense that are directly or constructively paid between us, our tenants and/or any taxable REIT subsidiaries (“TRSs”) if and to the extent that the IRS successfully adjusts the reported amounts of these items.
- If, during the ten-year period beginning on the first date we are subject to taxation as a REIT, we recognize gain on the disposition of any property held by us as of this date, then, to the extent of the excess of (i) the fair market value of this property as of this date over (ii) the adjusted tax basis of the property as of this date, which we refer to as built-in gain, will be subject to tax at the highest corporate tax rate. In addition, if we acquire any asset from a C corporation, which is generally a corporation subject to full corporate level tax, in a transaction in which the adjusted tax basis of the asset in our hands is determined by reference to the adjusted tax basis of the asset or any other property in the hands of the C corporation, and we recognize gain on the disposition of this asset during the ten-year period beginning on the date on which the asset was acquired by us, then, the built-in gains will be subject to tax at the highest regular corporate tax rate. The results described in this paragraph assume that the C corporation will not elect in lieu of this treatment to be subject to an immediate tax when the asset is acquired by us.
- We may elect to retain and pay income tax on our net long-term capital gain. In that case, a stockholder would include his, her or its proportionate share of our undistributed long-term capital gain (to the extent we make a timely designation of such gain to the stockholder) in his, her or its income, would be deemed to have paid the tax that we paid on such gain, and would be allowed a credit for his, her or its proportionate share of the tax deemed to have been paid, and an adjustment would be made to increase the stockholder’s basis in our stock. Stockholders that are U.S. corporations will also appropriately adjust their earnings and profits for the retained capital gain in accordance with Treasury Regulations to be promulgated.
- We may have subsidiaries or own interests in other lower-tier entities that are subchapter C corporations, including any TRSs, the earnings of which could be subject to U.S. federal corporate income tax.

In addition, we and our subsidiaries may be subject to a variety of taxes other than U.S. federal income tax, including payroll taxes and state, local, and foreign income, transfer, franchise, property and other taxes. We could also be subject to tax in situations and on transactions not presently contemplated.



## Requirements for Qualification—General

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

- (1) that is managed by one or more trustees or directors;
- (2) the beneficial ownership of which is evidenced by transferable shares, or by transferable certificates of beneficial interest;
- (3) that would be taxable as a domestic corporation but for the special Code provisions applicable to REITs;
- (4) that is neither a financial institution nor an insurance company subject to specific provisions of the Code;
- (5) the beneficial ownership of which is held by 100 or more persons during at least 335 days of a taxable year of 12 months, or during a proportionate part of a taxable year of less than 12 months;
- (6) in which, during the last half of each taxable year, not more than 50% by value of the outstanding stock is owned, directly or indirectly, by five or fewer “individuals” (as defined in the Code to include specified entities);
- (7) that meets other tests described below, including with respect to the nature of its income and assets and the amount of its distributions; and
- (8) that makes an election to be a REIT for the current taxable year or has made such an election for a previous taxable year that has not been terminated or revoked.

The Code provides that conditions (1) through (4) must be met during the entire taxable year, and that condition (5) must be met during at least 335 days of a taxable year of 12 months, or during a proportionate part of a shorter taxable year. Conditions (5) and (6) do not need to be satisfied for the first taxable year for which an election to become a REIT has been made. Our charter provides restrictions regarding the ownership and transfer of our shares, which are intended, among other purposes, to assist us in satisfying the share ownership requirements described in conditions (5) and (6) above. For purposes of condition (6), an “individual” generally includes a supplemental unemployment compensation benefit plan, a private foundation, or a portion of a trust permanently set aside or used exclusively for charitable purposes, but does not include a qualified pension plan or profit sharing trust.

To monitor compliance with the share ownership requirements, we are required to maintain records regarding the actual ownership of our shares. To do so, we must demand written statements each year from the record holders of significant percentages of our stock in which the record holders are to disclose the actual owners of the shares (*i.e.*, the persons required to include in gross income the dividends paid by us). A list of those persons failing or refusing to comply with this demand must be maintained as part of our records. Failure by us to comply with these record-keeping requirements could subject us to monetary penalties. If we satisfy these requirements and after exercising reasonable diligence would not have known that condition (6) is not satisfied, we will be deemed to have satisfied such condition. A stockholder that fails or refuses to comply with the demand is required by Treasury Regulations to submit a statement with his, her or its tax return disclosing the actual ownership of the shares and other information.

In addition, a corporation generally may not elect to become a REIT unless its taxable year is the calendar year. We satisfy this requirement. Furthermore, a corporation does not qualify as a REIT for a given taxable year if, as of the final day of the taxable year, the corporation has any undistributed earnings and profits that accumulated during a period that the corporation was not treated as a REIT for U.S. federal income tax purposes. We believe that we distributed all of our earnings and profits that accumulated through December 31, 2009 prior to December 31, 2010 and therefore satisfy this requirement.

***Effect of Subsidiary Entities***

*Ownership of Partnership Interests.* In the case of a REIT that is a partner in a partnership, Treasury Regulations provide that the REIT is deemed to own its proportionate share of the partnership's assets and to earn its proportionate share of the partnership's gross income based on its *pro rata* share of capital interests in the partnership for purposes of the asset and gross income tests applicable to REITs, as described below. However, solely for purposes of the 10% value test, described below, the determination of a REIT's interest in partnership assets will be based on the REIT's proportionate interest in any securities issued by the partnership, excluding, for these purposes, certain excluded securities as described in the Code. In addition, the assets and gross income of the partnership generally are deemed to retain the same character in the hands of the REIT. Thus, our proportionate share of the assets and items of income of partnerships in which we own an equity interest (including our interest in our operating partnership and its equity interests in any lower-tier partnerships), is treated as our assets and items of income for purposes of applying the REIT requirements described below. Consequently, to the extent that we directly or indirectly hold a preferred or other equity interest in a partnership, the partnership's assets and operations may affect our ability to qualify as a REIT, even though we may have no control, or only limited influence, over the partnership. A summary of certain rules governing the U.S. federal income taxation of partnerships and their partners is provided below in "—Tax Aspects of Investments in Partnerships."

*Disregarded Subsidiaries.* If a REIT owns a corporate subsidiary that is a "qualified REIT subsidiary," that subsidiary is disregarded for U.S. federal income tax purposes, and all assets, liabilities and items of income, deduction and credit of the subsidiary are treated as assets, liabilities and items of income, deduction and credit of the REIT, including for purposes of the gross income and asset tests applicable to REITs as summarized below. A qualified REIT subsidiary is any corporation, other than a TRS, as described below under "—Requirements for Qualification—General—Effect of Subsidiary Entities—Taxable REIT Subsidiaries," that is wholly owned by a REIT, or by other disregarded subsidiaries, or by a combination of the two. Single member limited liability companies that are wholly owned by a REIT are also generally disregarded as separate entities for U.S. federal income tax purposes, including for purposes of the REIT gross income and asset tests. Disregarded subsidiaries, along with partnerships in which we hold an equity interest, are sometimes referred to herein as "pass-through subsidiaries."

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

*Taxable REIT Subsidiaries.* A REIT generally may jointly elect with a subsidiary corporation, whether or not wholly owned, to treat the subsidiary corporation as a TRS. The separate existence of a TRS or other taxable corporation, unlike a disregarded subsidiary as discussed above, is not ignored for U.S. federal income tax purposes. Accordingly, such an entity would generally be subject to corporate U.S. federal, state, local and income and franchise taxes on its earnings, which may reduce the cash flow generated by us and our subsidiaries in the aggregate, and our ability to make distributions to our stockholders.

We have jointly elected with ROIC Phillips Ranch TRS, Inc., or ROIC TRS, a Delaware corporation that is indirectly wholly owned by us, for ROIC TRS to be treated as a TRS. This will allow ROIC TRS to invest in assets and engage in activities that could not be held or conducted directly by us without jeopardizing our qualification as a REIT. A REIT is not treated as holding the assets of a TRS or other taxable subsidiary

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corporation or as receiving any income that the subsidiary earns. Rather, the stock issued by the subsidiary is an asset in the hands of the REIT, and the REIT recognizes as income the dividends, if any, that it receives from the subsidiary. This treatment can affect the gross income and asset test calculations that apply to the REIT, as described below. Because a REIT does not include the assets and income of such subsidiary corporations in determining the REIT's compliance with the REIT requirements, such entities may be used by the parent REIT to undertake indirectly activities that the REIT rules might otherwise preclude it from doing directly or through pass-through subsidiaries or render commercially unfeasible (for example, activities that give rise to certain categories of income such as management fees). If dividends are paid to us by ROIC TRS or one or more other TRSs we may own, then a portion of the dividends that we distribute to stockholders who are taxed at individual rates generally will be eligible for taxation at preferential qualified dividend income tax rates rather than at ordinary income rates. See “—Taxation of Stockholders—Taxation of Taxable U.S. Stockholders” and “—Requirements for Qualification—General—Annual Distribution Requirements.”

Certain restrictions imposed on TRSs are intended to ensure that such entities will be subject to appropriate levels of U.S. federal income taxation. First, if a TRS has a debt to equity ratio as of the close of the taxable year exceeding 1.5 to 1, it may not deduct interest payments made in any year to an affiliated REIT to the extent that such payments exceed, generally, 50% of the TRS's adjusted taxable income for that year (although the TRS may carry forward to, and deduct in, a succeeding year the disallowed interest amount if the 50% test is satisfied in that year). In addition, if amounts are paid to a REIT or deducted by a TRS due to transactions between a REIT, its tenants and/or a TRS, that exceed the amount that would be paid to or deducted by a party in an arm's-length transaction, the REIT generally will be subject to an excise tax equal to 100% of such excess.

Rents received by us that include amounts for services furnished by a TRS to any of our tenants will not be subject to the excise tax if such amounts qualify for the safe harbor provisions contained in the Code. Safe harbor provisions are provided where (1) amounts are excluded from the definition of impermissible tenants service income as a result of satisfying a 1% *de minimis* exception; (2) a TRS renders a significant amount of similar services to unrelated parties and the charges for such services are substantially comparable; (3) rents paid to us by tenants that are not receiving services from the TRS are substantially comparable to the rents by our tenants leasing comparable space that are receiving such services from the TRS and the charge for the services is separately stated; or (4) the TRS's gross income from the service is not less than 150% of the TRS's direct cost of furnishing the service.

### **Gross Income Tests**

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

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

Rents received by us will qualify as “rents from real property” in satisfying the 75% gross income test described above, only if several conditions are met, including the following. The rent must not be based in whole

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or in part on the income or profits of any person. However, an amount will not be excluded from rents from real property solely by being based on a fixed percentage or percentages of receipts or sales or being based on the net income or profits of a tenant which derives substantially all of its income with respect to such property from subleasing of substantially all of such property, to the extent that the rents paid by the sublessees would qualify as rents from real property, if earned directly by us. If rent is partly attributable to personal property leased in connection with a lease of real property, the portion of the total rent that is attributable to the personal property will not qualify as rents from real property unless it constitutes 15% or less of the total rent received under the lease. Moreover, for rents received to qualify as rents from real property, we generally must not operate or manage the property or furnish or render certain services to the tenants of such property, other than through an “independent contractor” who is adequately compensated and from which we derive no income, or through a TRS, as discussed below. We are permitted, however, to perform services that are “usually or customarily rendered” in connection with the rental of space for occupancy only and are not otherwise considered rendered to the occupant of the property. In addition, we may directly or indirectly provide non-customary services to tenants of our properties if the gross income from such services does not exceed 1% of the total gross income from the property. In such a case, only the amounts for non-customary services are not treated as rents from real property and the provision of the services does not disqualify the rents from treatment as rents from real property. For purposes of this test, the gross income received from such non-customary services is deemed to be at least 150% of the direct cost of providing the services. Moreover, we are permitted to provide services to tenants through a TRS without disqualifying the rental income received from tenants as rents from real property. Also, rental income will qualify as rents from real property only to the extent that we do not directly or indirectly (through application of certain constructive ownership rules) own, (1) in the case of any tenant which is a corporation, stock possessing 10% or more of the total combined voting power of all classes of stock entitled to vote, or 10% or more of the total value of shares of all classes of stock of such tenant, or (2) in the case of any tenant which is not a corporation, an interest of 10% or more in the assets or net profits of such tenant. However, rental payments from a TRS will qualify as rents from real property even if we own more than 10% of the total value or combined voting power of the TRS if at least 90% of the property is leased to unrelated tenants and the rent paid by the TRS is substantially comparable to the rent paid by the unrelated tenants for comparable space.

Unless we determine that the resulting nonqualifying income under any of the following situations, taken together with all other nonqualifying income earned by us in the taxable year, will not jeopardize our qualification as a REIT, we do not intend to:

- charge rent for any property that is based in whole or in part on the income or profits of any person, except by reason of being based on a fixed percentage or percentages of receipts or sales, as described above;
- rent any property to a related party tenant, including a TRS, unless the rent from the lease to the TRS would qualify for the special exception from the related party tenant rule applicable to certain leases with a TRS;
- derive rental income attributable to personal property other than personal property leased in connection with the lease of real property, the amount of which is less than 15% of the total rent received under the lease; or
- directly perform services considered to be noncustomary or rendered to the occupant of the property.

We may indirectly receive distributions from any TRSs or other corporations that are not REITs or qualified REIT subsidiaries. These distributions will be classified as dividend income to the extent of the earnings and profits of the distributing corporation. Such distributions will generally constitute qualifying income for purposes of the 95% gross income test, but not for purposes of the 75% gross income test. Any dividends received by us from a REIT, however, will be qualifying income for purposes of both the 95% and 75% gross income tests.

Interest income constitutes qualifying mortgage interest for purposes of the 75% gross income test, as described above, to the extent that the obligation is secured by a mortgage on real property. If we receive interest

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income with respect to a mortgage loan that is secured by both real property and other property, and the highest principal amount of the loan outstanding during a taxable year exceeds the fair market value of the real property on the date that we acquired or originated the mortgage loan, the interest income will be apportioned between the real property and the other property, and our income from the loan will qualify for purposes of the 75% gross income test only to the extent that the interest is allocable to the real property. We may make real estate-related debt investments, provided that the underlying real estate meets our criteria for direct investment. Although the issue is not free from doubt, we may be required to treat a portion of the gross income derived from a mortgage loan that is acquired at a time when the fair market value of the real property securing the loan is less than the loan's face amount and there are other assets securing the loan, as nonqualifying for the 75% gross income test even if our acquisition price for the loan (that is, the fair market value of the loan) is less than the value of the real property securing the loan. Even if a loan is not secured by real property or is undersecured, the income that it generates may nonetheless also qualify for purposes of the 95% gross income test.

To the extent that the terms of a loan provide for contingent interest that is based on the cash proceeds realized upon the sale of the property securing the loan, income attributable to the participation feature will be treated as gain from sale of the underlying property, which generally will be qualifying income for purposes of both the 75% and 95% gross income tests.

Among the assets we may hold are certain mezzanine loans secured by equity interests in a pass-through entity that directly or indirectly owns real property, rather than a direct mortgage on the real property. The IRS issued Revenue Procedure 2003-65 (the "Revenue Procedure"), which provides a safe harbor pursuant to which a mezzanine loan, if it meets each of the requirements contained in the Revenue Procedure, will be treated by the IRS as a real estate asset for purposes of the REIT asset tests, and interest derived from it will be treated as qualifying mortgage interest for purposes of the 75% gross income test described above. Although the Revenue Procedure provides a safe harbor on which taxpayers may rely, it does not prescribe rules of substantive tax law. The mezzanine loans that we acquire may not meet all of the requirements for reliance on this safe harbor. Hence, there can be no assurance that the IRS will not challenge the qualification of such assets as real estate assets or the interest generated by these loans as qualifying income under the 75% gross income test described above. To the extent we make corporate mezzanine loans or acquire other commercial real estate corporate debt, such loans will not qualify as real estate assets and interest income with respect to such loans will not be qualifying income for the 75% gross income test described above.

### ***Foreign Investments***

To the extent that we hold or acquire foreign investments, such investments may generate foreign currency gains and losses. Foreign currency gains are generally treated as income that does not qualify under the 95% or 75% gross income tests. However, in general, if foreign currency gain is recognized with respect to specified assets or income which otherwise qualifies for purposes of the 95% or 75% gross income tests, then such foreign currency gain will generally not constitute gross income for purposes of either the 95% or 75% gross income tests, respectively, provided we do not deal or engage in substantial and regular trading in securities, which we do not intend to do. No assurance can be given that any foreign currency gains recognized by us directly or through pass-through subsidiaries will not adversely affect our ability to satisfy the REIT qualification requirements.

### ***Hedging Transactions***

We may enter into hedging transactions with respect to one or more of our assets or liabilities. Hedging transactions could take a variety of forms, including interest rate swap agreements, interest rate cap agreements, options, futures contracts, forward rate agreements or similar financial instruments. Except to the extent provided by Treasury Regulations, any income from a hedging transaction we enter into (1) in the normal course of our business primarily to manage risk of interest rate or price changes or currency fluctuations with respect to borrowings made or to be made, or ordinary obligations incurred or to be incurred, to acquire or carry real estate assets, which we clearly identify as specified in Treasury Regulations before the close of the day on which it was acquired,

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originated, or entered into, including gain from the sale or disposition of such a transaction, or (2) primarily to manage risk of currency fluctuations with respect to any item of income or gain that would be qualifying income under the 75% or 95% income tests which is clearly identified as such before the close of the day on which it was acquired, originated, or entered into, will not constitute gross income for purposes of the 75% or 95% gross income test. To the extent that we enter into other types of hedging transactions, the income from those transactions is likely to be treated as non-qualifying income for purposes of both of the 75% and 95% gross income tests. We intend to structure any hedging transactions in a manner that does not jeopardize our qualification as a REIT.

### ***Failure to Satisfy the Gross Income Tests***

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

### ***Asset Tests***

At the close of each calendar quarter we must also satisfy four tests relating to the nature of our assets. First, at least 75% of the value of our total assets must be represented by some combination of “real estate assets,” cash, cash items, U.S. government securities, and, under some circumstances, stock or debt instruments purchased with new capital. For this purpose, real estate assets include interests in real property, such as land, buildings, leasehold interests in real property, stock of other REITs, and certain kinds of mortgage-backed securities and mortgage loans. Assets that do not qualify for purposes of the 75% test are subject to the additional asset tests described below.

Second, the value of any one issuer’s securities owned by us may not exceed 5% of the value of our total assets. Third, we may not own more than 10% of any one issuer’s outstanding securities, as measured by either voting power or value. Fourth, the aggregate value of all securities of any TRSs held by us may not exceed 25% of the value of our total assets.

The 5% and 10% asset tests do not apply to securities of TRSs, qualified REIT subsidiaries or securities that are “real estate assets” for purposes of the 75% gross asset test described above. The 10% value test does not apply to certain “straight debt” and other excluded securities, as described in the Code including, but not limited to, any loan to an individual or estate, any obligation to pay rents from real property and any security issued by a REIT. In addition, (1) a REIT’s interest as a partner in a partnership is not considered a security for purposes of applying the 10% value test to securities issued by the partnership; (2) any debt instrument issued by a partnership (other than straight debt or another excluded security) will not be considered a security issued by the partnership if at least 75% of the partnership’s gross income is derived from sources that would qualify for the 75% REIT gross income test; and (3) any debt instrument issued by a partnership (other than straight debt or another excluded security) will not be considered a security issued by the partnership to the extent of the REIT’s interest as a partner in the partnership. For purposes of the 10% value test, “straight debt” means a written unconditional promise to pay on demand on a specified date a sum certain in money if (i) debt is not convertible, directly or indirectly, into stock, (ii) the interest rate and interest payment dates are not contingent on profits, the borrower’s discretion, or similar factors other than certain contingencies relating to the timing and amount of

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principal and interest payments, as described in the Code and (iii) in the case of an issuer that is a corporation or a partnership, securities that otherwise would be considered straight debt will not be so considered if we, and any of our “controlled taxable REIT subsidiaries,” as defined in the Code, hold any securities of the corporate or partnership issuer which (a) are not straight debt or other excluded securities (prior to the application of this rule), and (b) have an aggregate value greater than 1% of the issuer’s outstanding securities (including, for the purposes of a partnership issuer, its interest as a partner in the partners).

We may make real estate-related debt investments, provided the underlying real estate meets our criteria for direct investment. A real estate mortgage loan that we own generally will be treated as a real estate asset for purposes of the 75% REIT asset test if, on the date that we acquire or originate the mortgage loan, the value of the real property securing the loan is equal to or greater than the principal amount of the loan. Existing IRS guidance provides that certain rules described above that are applicable to the gross income tests may apply to determine what portion of a mortgage loan will be treated as a real estate asset if the mortgage loan is secured both by real property and other assets. Although the issue is not free from doubt, we may be required to treat a portion of a mortgage loan that is acquired (or modified in a manner that is treated as an acquisition of a new loan for U.S. federal income tax purposes) at a time when the fair market value of the real property securing the loan is less than the loan’s face amount and there are other assets securing the loan, as nonqualifying for the 75% REIT asset test even if our acquisition price for the loan (that is, the fair market value of the loan) is less than the value of the real property securing the loan.

After initially meeting the asset tests at the close of any quarter, we will not lose our qualification as a REIT for failure to satisfy the asset tests at the end of a later quarter solely by reason of changes in asset values (including a failure caused solely by change in the foreign currency exchange rate used to value a foreign asset). If we fail to satisfy the asset tests because we acquire or increase our ownership interest in securities during a quarter, we can cure this failure by disposing of the non-qualifying assets within 30 days after the close of that quarter. If we fail the 5% asset test or the 10% vote or value asset test at the end of any quarter, and such failure is not cured within 30 days thereafter, we may dispose of sufficient assets (generally, within six months after the last day of the quarter in which our identification of the failure to satisfy those asset tests occurred) to cure the violation, *provided* that the non-permitted assets do not exceed the lesser of 1% of our assets at the end of the relevant quarter or \$10,000,000. If we fail any of the other asset tests, or our failure of the 5% and 10% asset tests is in excess of this amount, as long as the failure was due to reasonable cause and not wilful neglect, we are permitted to avoid disqualification as a REIT, after the thirty-day cure period, by taking steps including the disposition of sufficient assets to meet the asset tests (generally within six months after the last day of the quarter in which our identification of the failure to satisfy the REIT asset test occurred), and paying a tax equal to the greater of \$50,000 or 35% of the net income generated by the nonqualifying assets during the period in which we failed to satisfy the relevant asset test.

We believe that our holdings of securities and other assets will comply with the foregoing REIT asset requirements, and we intend to monitor compliance with such tests on an ongoing basis. There can be no assurance, however, that we will be successful in this effort. Moreover, the values of some of our assets, including the securities of any TRSs or other nonpublicly traded investments, may not be susceptible to a precise determination and are subject to change in the future. Furthermore, the proper classification of an instrument as debt or equity for U.S. federal income tax purposes may be uncertain in some circumstances, which could affect the application of the REIT asset tests. Accordingly, there can be no assurance that the IRS will not contend that our assets do not meet the requirements of the REIT asset tests.

### **Annual Distribution Requirements**

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

(1) the sum of:

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

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- 90% of the net income, if any (after tax), from foreclosure property, as described below, and recognized built-in gain, as discussed above, minus
- (2) the sum of specified items of non-cash income that exceeds a percentage of our income.

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

In order for distributions to be counted towards our distribution requirement, and to give rise to a tax deduction to us, they must not be “preferential dividends.” A dividend is not a preferential dividend if it is *pro rata* among all outstanding shares of stock within a particular class, and is in accordance with the preferences among our different classes of stock as set forth in our organizational documents.

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

If we fail to distribute during each calendar year at least the sum of (1) 85% of our REIT ordinary income for such year, (2) 95% of our REIT capital gain net income for such year and (3) any undistributed taxable income from prior periods, we will be subject to a 4% non-deductible excise tax on the excess of such amount over the sum of (A) the amounts actually distributed (taking into account excess distributions from prior periods) and (B) the amounts of income retained on which we have paid corporate income tax. We intend to make timely distributions so that we are not subject to the 4% excise tax.

It is possible that we, from time to time, may not have sufficient cash to meet the REIT distribution requirements due to timing differences between (1) the actual receipt of cash, including the receipt of distributions from any partnership subsidiaries and (2) the inclusion of items in income by us for U.S. federal income tax purposes. Additional potential sources of non-cash taxable income include loans held by us as assets that are issued at a discount and require the accrual of taxable interest income in advance of our receipt in cash, loans on which the borrower is permitted to defer cash payments of interest and distressed loans on which we may be required to accrue taxable interest income even though the borrower is unable to make current interest payments in cash. In the event that such timing differences occur, in order to meet the distribution requirements, it might be necessary to arrange for short-term, or possibly long-term, borrowings, or to pay dividends in the form of taxable in-kind distributions of property, including taxable stock dividends. In the case of a taxable stock dividend, stockholders would be required to include the dividend as income and would be required to satisfy the tax liability associated with the distribution with cash from other sources including sales of our stock. Both a taxable stock distribution and sale of stock resulting from such distribution could adversely affect the price of our stock.

We may be able to rectify a failure to meet the distribution requirements for a year by paying “deficiency dividends” to stockholders in a later year, which may be included in our deduction for dividends paid for the earlier year. In this case, we may be able to avoid losing our REIT qualification or being taxed on amounts



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distributed as deficiency dividends. However, we will be required to pay interest and a penalty based on the amount of any deduction taken for deficiency dividends.

### **Recordkeeping Requirements**

We are required to maintain records and request on an annual basis information from specified stockholders. These requirements are designed to assist us in determining the actual ownership of our outstanding stock and maintaining our qualification as a REIT.

### **Prohibited Transactions**

Net income we derive from a prohibited transaction is subject to a 100% tax. The term “prohibited transaction” generally includes a sale or other disposition of property (other than foreclosure property) that is held as inventory or primarily for sale to customers in the ordinary course of a trade or business by a REIT, by a lower-tier partnership in which the REIT holds an equity interest or by a borrower that has issued a shared appreciation mortgage or similar debt instrument in the REIT. We intend to conduct our operations so that no asset owned by us or our pass-through subsidiaries will be held as inventory or primarily for sale to customers, and that a sale of any assets owned by us directly or through a pass-through subsidiary will not be in the ordinary course of business. However, whether property is held as inventory or “primarily for sale to customers in the ordinary course of a trade or business” depends on the particular facts and circumstances. No assurance can be given that any particular property in which we hold a direct or indirect interest will not be treated as property held as inventory or primarily for sale to customers, or that certain safe-harbor provisions of the Code discussed below that prevent such treatment will apply. The 100% tax will not apply to gains from the sale of property that is held through a TRS or other taxable corporation, although such income will be subject to tax in the hands of the corporation at regular corporate income tax rates.

The Code provides a safe harbor that, if met, allows us to avoid being treated as engaged in a prohibited transaction. In order to meet the safe harbor, among other things, (i) we must have held the property for at least two years (and, in the case of property which consists of land or improvements not acquired through foreclosure, we must have held the property for two years for the production of rental income) and (ii) during the taxable year the property is disposed of, we must not have made more than seven property sales or, alternatively, the aggregate adjusted basis or fair market value of all of the properties sold by us during the taxable year must not exceed 10% of the aggregate adjusted basis or 10% of the fair market value, respectively, of all of our assets as of the beginning of the taxable year.

### **Foreclosure Property**

Foreclosure property is real property (including interests in real property) and any personal property incident to such real property (1) that is acquired by a REIT as a result of the REIT having bid on the property at foreclosure, or having otherwise reduced the property to ownership or possession by agreement or process of law, after there was a default (or default was imminent) on a lease of the property or a mortgage loan held by the REIT and secured by the property, (2) for which the related loan or lease was made, entered into or acquired by the REIT at a time when default was not imminent or anticipated and (3) for which such REIT makes a proper election to treat the property as foreclosure property. REITs generally are subject to tax at the maximum corporate rate (currently 35%) on any net income from foreclosure property, including any gain from the disposition of the foreclosure property, other than income that would otherwise be qualifying income for purposes of the 75% gross income test. Any gain from the sale of property for which a foreclosure property election has been made will not be subject to the 100% tax on gains from prohibited transactions described above, even if the property would otherwise constitute inventory or dealer property in the hands of the selling REIT.

## **Tax Aspects of Investments in Partnerships**

### ***General***

We will hold investments through entities that are classified as partnerships for U.S. federal income tax purposes, including our interest in our operating partnership, in the event a third party acquires an equity interest in our operating partnership, and equity interests in lower-tier partnerships. In general, partnerships are “pass-through” entities that are not subject to U.S. federal income tax. Rather, partners are allocated their proportionate shares of the items of income, gain, loss, deduction and credit of a partnership, and are subject to tax on these items without regard to whether the partners receive a distribution from the partnership. We will include in our income our proportionate share of these partnership items for purposes of the various REIT income tests, based on our capital interest in such partnership, and in the computation of our REIT taxable income. Moreover, for purposes of the REIT asset tests, we will include our proportionate share of assets held by subsidiary partnerships, based on our capital interest in such partnerships (other than for purposes of the 10% value test, for which the determination of our interest in partnership assets will be based on our proportionate interest in any securities issued by the partnership excluding, for these purposes, certain excluded securities as described in the Code). Consequently, to the extent that we hold an equity interest in a partnership, the partnership’s assets and operations may affect our ability to qualify as a REIT, even though we may have no control, or only limited influence, over the partnership.

### ***Entity Classification***

The investment by us in partnerships involves special tax considerations, including the possibility of a challenge by the IRS of the status of any of our subsidiary partnerships as a partnership, as opposed to an association taxable as a corporation, for U.S. federal income tax purposes. If any of these entities were treated as an association for U.S. federal income tax purposes, it would be taxable as a corporation and, therefore, could be subject to an entity-level tax on its income. In such a situation, the character of our assets and items of our gross income would change and could preclude us from satisfying the REIT asset tests (particularly the tests generally preventing a REIT from owning more than 10% of the voting securities, or more than 10% of the value of the securities, of a corporation) or the gross income tests as discussed in “—Requirements for Qualification—General—Asset Tests” and “—Gross Income Tests” above, and in turn could prevent us from qualifying as a REIT. See “—Failure to Qualify,” below, for a discussion of the effect of our failure to meet these tests for a taxable year. In addition, any change in the status of any of our subsidiary partnerships for tax purposes might be treated as a taxable event, in which case we could have taxable income that is subject to the REIT distribution requirements without receiving any cash.

### ***Tax Allocations With Respect to Partnership Properties***

The partnership agreement of our operating partnership generally provides that items of operating income and loss will be allocated to the holders of units in proportion to the number of units held by each holder. If an allocation of partnership income or loss does not comply with the requirements of Section 704(b) of the Code and the Treasury Regulations thereunder, the item subject to the allocation will be reallocated in accordance with the partners’ interests in the partnership. This reallocation will be determined by taking into account all of the facts and circumstances relating to the economic arrangement of the partners with respect to such item. Our operating partnership’s allocations of income and loss are intended to comply with the requirements of Section 704(b) of the Code of the Treasury Regulations promulgated under this section of the Code.

Under Section 704(c) of the Code, income, gain, loss and deduction attributable to appreciated or depreciated property that is contributed to a partnership in exchange for an interest in the partnership must be allocated for tax purposes in a manner such that the contributing partner is charged with, or benefits from, the unrealized gain or unrealized loss associated with the property at the time of the contribution. The amount of the unrealized gain or unrealized loss is generally equal to the difference between the fair market value, or book value, of the contributed property and the adjusted tax basis of such property at the time of the contribution (a

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“book-tax difference”). Such allocations are solely for U.S. federal income tax purposes and do not affect partnership capital accounts or other economic or legal arrangements among the partners.

In connection with future asset acquisitions, appreciated property may be acquired by our operating partnership in exchange for interests in our operating partnership. The partnership agreement requires that allocations with respect to such acquired property be made in a manner consistent with Section 704(c) of the Code. Treasury Regulations issued under Section 704(c) of the Code provide partnerships with a choice of several methods of allocating book-tax differences. Under the traditional method, which is the least favorable method from our perspective but may be requested by a contributor of property that our operating partnership acquires, the carryover basis of the acquired properties in the hands of our operating partnership (1) may cause us to be allocated lower amounts of depreciation and other deductions for tax purposes than would be allocated to us if all of the acquired properties were to have a tax basis equal to their fair market value at the time of acquisition and (2) in the event of a sale of such properties, could cause us to be allocated gain in excess of our corresponding economic or book gain (or taxable loss that is less than our economic or book loss), with a corresponding benefit to the partners transferring such properties to our operating partnership for interests in our operating partnership. Therefore, the use of the traditional method could result in our having taxable income that is in excess of our economic or book income as well as our cash distributions from our operating partnership, which might adversely affect our ability to comply with the REIT distribution requirements or result in our stockholders recognizing additional dividend income without an increase in distributions.

### **Failure to Qualify**

In the event that we violate a provision of the Code that would result in our failure to qualify as a REIT, we may nevertheless continue to qualify as a REIT. Specified relief provisions will be available to us to avoid such disqualification if (1) the violation is due to reasonable cause and not due to wilful neglect, (2) we pay a penalty of \$50,000 for each failure to satisfy a requirement for qualification as a REIT and (3) the violation does not include a violation under the gross income or asset tests described above (for which other specified relief provisions are available). This cure provision reduces the instances that could lead to our disqualification as a REIT for violations due to reasonable cause. If we fail to qualify for taxation as a REIT in any taxable year and none of the relief provisions of the Code apply, we will be subject to tax, including any applicable alternative minimum tax, on our taxable income at regular corporate rates. Distributions to our stockholders in any year in which we are not a REIT will not be deductible by us, nor will they be required to be made. In this situation, to the extent of current and accumulated earnings and profits, and, subject to limitations of the Code, distributions to our stockholders will generally be taxable in the case of our stockholders who are individual U.S. stockholders at a maximum rate 20%, and dividends in the hands of our corporate U.S. stockholders may be eligible for the dividends received deduction. Unless we are entitled to relief under the specific statutory provisions, we will also be disqualified from re-electing to be taxed as a REIT for the four taxable years following the year during which qualification was lost. It is not possible to state whether, in all circumstances, we will be entitled to statutory relief.

### **Taxation of Stockholders**

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

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

- a citizen or resident of the U.S.;
- a corporation (including an entity treated as a corporation for U.S. federal income tax purposes) created or organized in or under the laws of the U.S. or of a political subdivision thereof (including the District of Columbia);
- an estate whose income is subject to U.S. federal income taxation regardless of its source; or

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

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

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

In addition, distributions from us that are designated as capital gain dividends will be taxed to U.S. stockholders as long-term capital gains, to the extent that they do not exceed our actual net capital gain for the taxable year, without regard to the period for which the U.S. stockholder has held his, her or its stock. To the extent that we elect under the applicable provisions of the Code to retain our net capital gains, U.S. stockholders will be treated as having received, for U.S. federal income tax purposes, our undistributed capital gains as well as a corresponding credit for taxes paid by us on such retained capital gains.

U.S. stockholders will increase their adjusted tax basis in our stock by the difference between their allocable share of such retained capital gain and their share of the tax paid by us. Corporate U.S. stockholders may be required to treat up to 20% of some capital gain dividends as ordinary income. Long-term capital gains are generally taxable at maximum U.S. federal rates of 20% in the case of U.S. stockholders who are individuals, and 35% for corporations. Capital gains attributable to the sale of depreciable real property held for more than 12 months are subject to a 25% maximum U.S. federal income tax rate for individual U.S. stockholders, to the extent of previously claimed depreciation deductions.

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

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

- (1) the qualified dividend income received by us during such taxable year from subchapter C corporations (including any TRSs);

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(2) the excess of any “undistributed” REIT taxable income recognized during the immediately preceding year over the U.S. federal income tax paid by us with respect to such undistributed REIT taxable income; and

(3) the excess of any income recognized during the immediately preceding year attributable to the sale of a built-in-gain asset that was acquired in a carry-over basis transaction from a non-REIT corporation or had appreciated at the time our REIT election became effective over the U.S. federal income tax paid by us with respect to such built-in gain.

Generally, dividends that we receive will be treated as qualified dividend income for purposes of (1) above if the dividends are received from a domestic subchapter C corporation, such as any TRSs, and specified holding period and other requirements are met.

To the extent that we have available net operating losses and capital losses carried forward from prior tax years, such losses may reduce the amount of distributions that must be made in order to comply with the REIT distribution requirements. See “—Requirements for Qualification—General—Annual Distribution Requirements.” Such losses, however, are not passed through to U.S. stockholders and do not offset income of U.S. stockholders from other sources, nor do they affect the character of any distributions that are actually made by us, which are generally subject to tax in the hands of U.S. stockholders to the extent that we have current or accumulated earnings and profits.

*Dispositions of Our Stock.* In general, a U.S. stockholder will realize gain or loss upon the sale, redemption or other taxable disposition of our stock in an amount equal to the difference between the sum of the fair market value of any property and the amount of cash received in such disposition and the U.S. stockholder’s adjusted tax basis in the stock at the time of the disposition. In general, a U.S. stockholder’s adjusted tax basis will equal the U.S. stockholder’s acquisition cost, increased by the excess of net capital gains deemed distributed to the U.S. stockholder discussed above less tax deemed paid on it and reduced by returns of capital. In general, capital gains recognized by individuals and other non-corporate U.S. stockholders upon the sale or disposition of shares of our stock will be subject to a maximum U.S. federal income tax rate of 20%, if our stock is held for more than 12 months, and will be taxed at ordinary income rates of up to 39.6% if our stock is held for 12 months or less. Gains recognized by U.S. stockholders that are corporations are subject to U.S. federal income tax at a maximum rate of 35%, whether or not classified as long-term capital gains. The IRS has the authority to prescribe, but has not yet prescribed, regulations that would apply a capital gain tax rate of 25% (which is generally higher than the long-term capital gain tax rates for non-corporate holders) to a portion of capital gain realized by a non-corporate holder on the sale of REIT stock or depositary shares that would correspond to the REIT’s “unrecaptured Section 1250 gain.”

Holders are advised to consult their tax advisors with respect to their capital gain tax liability. Capital losses recognized by a U.S. stockholder upon the disposition of our stock held for more than one year at the time of disposition will be considered long-term capital losses, and are generally available only to offset capital gain income of the U.S. stockholder but not ordinary income (except in the case of individuals, who may offset up to \$3,000 of ordinary income each year). In addition, any loss upon a sale or exchange of shares of our stock by a U.S. stockholder who has held the shares for six months or less, after applying holding period rules, will be treated as a long-term capital loss to the extent of distributions received from us that were required to be treated by the U.S. stockholder as long-term capital gain.

If a U.S. stockholder recognizes a loss upon a subsequent disposition of our stock in an amount that exceeds a prescribed threshold, it is possible that the provisions of Treasury Regulations involving “reportable transactions” could apply, with a resulting requirement to separately disclose the loss generating transactions to the IRS. While these regulations are directed towards “tax shelters,” they are written quite broadly, and apply to transactions that would not typically be considered tax shelters. Significant penalties apply for failure to comply with these requirements. You should consult your tax advisors concerning any possible disclosure obligation with

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respect to the receipt or disposition of our stock, or transactions that might be undertaken directly or indirectly by us. Moreover, you should be aware that we and other participants in transactions involving us (including our advisors) might be subject to disclosure or other requirements pursuant to these regulations.

### ***Passive Activity Losses and Investment Interest Limitations***

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

### ***Medicare tax on unearned income***

Certain U.S. stockholders that are individuals are required to pay an additional 3.8% tax on, among other things, dividends on and capital gains from the sale or other disposition of stock. U.S. stockholders should consult their tax advisors regarding the effect, if any, of this additional tax on their ownership and disposition of our common stock.

### ***Foreign Accounts***

Dividends paid after December 31, 2013, and gross proceeds from the sale or other disposition of our common stock paid after December 31, 2016, to “foreign financial institutions” in respect of accounts of U.S. stockholders at such financial institutions may be subject to withholding at a rate of 30%. U.S. stockholders should consult their tax advisors regarding the effect, if any, of these withholding rules on their ownership and disposition of our common stock. See “—Foreign Accounts.”

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

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

Tax-exempt U.S. stockholders that are social clubs, voluntary employee benefit associations, supplemental unemployment benefit trusts, and qualified group legal services plans exempt from U.S. federal income taxation under sections 501(c)(7), (c) (9), (c)(17) and (c)(20) of the Code, respectively, are subject to different UBTI rules, which generally will require them to characterize distributions from us as UBTI unless they are able to properly claim a deduction for amounts set aside or placed in reserve for specific purposes so as to offset the income generated by their investment in our stock. These prospective investors should consult their tax advisors concerning these “set aside” and reserve requirements.

In certain circumstances, a pension trust (1) that is described in Section 401(a) of the Code, (2) is tax exempt under section 501(a) of the Code, and (3) that owns more than 10% of our stock could be required to treat

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

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

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

The following is a summary of certain U.S. federal income tax consequences of the acquisition, ownership and disposition of our stock applicable to non-U.S. stockholders. For these purposes, a non-U.S. stockholder is a beneficial owner of our stock who is neither a U.S. stockholder nor an entity that is treated as a partnership for U.S. federal income tax purposes. The discussion is based on current law and is for general information only. It addresses only selective and not all aspects of U.S. federal income taxation.

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

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

*Non-Dividend Distributions.* Unless (1) our stock constitutes a U.S. real property interest, (“USRPI”) or (2) either (A) if the non-U.S. stockholder’s investment in our stock is effectively connected with a U.S. trade or business conducted by such non-U.S. stockholder (in which case the non-U.S. stockholder will be subject to the same treatment as U.S. stockholders with respect to such gain) or (B) if the non-U.S. stockholder is a nonresident alien individual who was present in the United States for 183 days or more during the taxable year and has a “tax home” in the United States (in which case the non-U.S. stockholder will be subject to a 30% tax on the individual’s net capital gain for the year), distributions by us which are not dividends out of our earnings and profits will not be subject to U.S. federal income tax. If it cannot be determined at the time at which a distribution is made whether or not the distribution will exceed current and accumulated earnings and profits, the distribution will be subject to withholding at the rate applicable to dividends. However, the non-U.S. stockholder may seek a refund from the IRS of any amounts withheld if it is subsequently determined that the distribution was, in fact, in excess of our current and accumulated earnings and profits. If our company’s stock constitutes a USRPI, as described below, distributions by us in excess of the sum of our earnings and profits plus the non-U.S. stockholder’s adjusted tax basis in our stock will be taxed under the Foreign Investment in Real Property Tax Act of 1980 (“FIRPTA”) at the rate of tax, including any applicable capital gains rates, that would apply to a U.S. stockholder of the same type (*e.g.*, an individual or a corporation, as the case may be), and the collection of the

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tax will be enforced by a refundable withholding at a rate of 10% of the amount by which the distribution exceeds the stockholder's share of our earnings and profits plus the stockholder's adjusted basis in our stock.

*Capital Gain Dividends.* Under FIRPTA, a distribution made by us to a non-U.S. stockholder, to the extent attributable to gains from dispositions of USRPIs held by us directly or through pass-through subsidiaries ("USRPI capital gains"), will be considered effectively connected with a U.S. trade or business of the non-U.S. stockholder and will be subject to U.S. federal income tax at the rates applicable to U.S. stockholders, without regard to whether the distribution is designated as a capital gain dividend. In addition, we will be required to withhold tax equal to 35% of the amount of capital gain dividends to the extent the dividends constitute USRPI capital gains. Distributions subject to FIRPTA may also be subject to a 30% branch profits tax in the hands of a non-U.S. stockholder that is a corporation. However, the 35% withholding tax will not apply to any capital gain dividend with respect to any class of our stock which is regularly traded on an established securities market located in the United States if the non-U.S. stockholder did not own more than 5% of such class of stock at any time during the one-year period ending on the date of such dividend. Instead, any capital gain dividend will be treated as a distribution subject to the rules discussed above under "—Taxation of Stockholders—Taxation of Non-U.S. Stockholders—Ordinary Dividends." Also, the branch profits tax will not apply to such a distribution. A distribution is not a USRPI capital gain if we held the underlying asset solely as a creditor, although the holding of a shared appreciation mortgage loan would not be solely as a creditor. Capital gain dividends received by a non-U.S. stockholder from a REIT that are not USRPI capital gains are generally not subject to U.S. federal income or withholding tax, unless either (1) if the non-U.S. stockholder's investment in our stock is effectively connected with a U.S. trade or business conducted by such non-U.S. stockholder (in which case the non-U.S. stockholder will be subject to the same treatment as U.S. stockholders with respect to such gain) or (2) if the non-U.S. stockholder is a nonresident alien individual who was present in the United States for 183 days or more during the taxable year and has a "tax home" in the United States (in which case the non-U.S. stockholder will be subject to a 30% tax on the individual's net capital gain for the year).

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

Still, our stock nonetheless will not constitute a USRPI if we are a "domestically controlled REIT." A domestically controlled REIT is a REIT in which, at all times during a specified testing period (generally the lesser of the five-year period ending on the date of disposition of its shares of stock or the period of existence), less than 50% by value of its outstanding stock is held directly or indirectly by non-U.S. stockholders. We believe we are, and we expect to continue to be, a domestically controlled REIT and, therefore, the sale of our stock should not be subject to taxation under FIRPTA. Because our stock will be publicly traded, however, no assurance can be given that we will be, or that if we are, that we will remain, a domestically controlled REIT.

In the event that we do not constitute a domestically controlled REIT, a non-U.S. stockholder's sale of our stock nonetheless will generally not be subject to tax under FIRPTA as a sale of a USRPI, *provided* that (1) our stock is "regularly traded," as defined by applicable Treasury Regulations, on an established securities market, and (2) the selling non-U.S. stockholder owned, actually or constructively, 5% or less of our outstanding stock at all times during a specified testing period.

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



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Gain from the sale of our stock that would not otherwise be subject to FIRPTA will nonetheless be taxable in the United States to a non-U.S. stockholder in two cases: (1) if the non-U.S. stockholder's investment in our stock is effectively connected with a U.S. trade or business conducted by such non-U.S. stockholder, the non-U.S. stockholder will be subject to the same treatment as a U.S. stockholder with respect to such gain, or (2) if the non-U.S. stockholder is a nonresident alien individual who was present in the United States for 183 days or more during the taxable year and has a "tax home" in the United States, the nonresident alien individual will be subject to a 30% tax on the individual's capital gain.

### ***Backup Withholding and Information Reporting***

We will report to our U.S. stockholders and the IRS the amount of dividends paid during each calendar year and the amount of any tax withheld. Under the backup withholding rules, a U.S. stockholder may be subject to backup withholding at the current rate of 28% with respect to dividends paid, unless the holder (1) is a corporation or comes within other exempt categories and, when required, demonstrates this fact or (2) provides a taxpayer identification number or social security number, certifies under penalties of perjury that such number is correct and that such holder is not subject to backup withholding and otherwise complies with applicable requirements of the backup withholding rules. A U.S. stockholder that does not provide his or her correct taxpayer identification number or social security number may also be subject to penalties imposed by the IRS. In addition, we may be required to withhold a portion of capital gain distribution to any U.S. stockholder who fails to certify their non-foreign status.

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

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

Backup withholding is not an additional tax. Any amounts withheld under the backup withholding rules may be allowed as a refund or a credit against such holder's U.S. federal income tax liability, provided the required information is furnished to the IRS.

### ***Foreign Accounts***

Withholding taxes may be imposed (at a 30% rate) on U.S. source payments made after December 31, 2013 to "foreign financial institutions" and certain other non-U.S. entities and on certain disposition proceeds of U.S. securities realized after December 31, 2016. Under these withholding rules, the failure to comply with additional certification, information reporting and other specified requirements could result in withholding tax being imposed on payments of dividends and sales proceeds to U.S. stockholders (as defined above) who own shares of our common stock through foreign accounts or foreign intermediaries and certain non-U.S. stockholders. The withholding tax may be imposed on dividends on, and gross proceeds from the sale or other disposition of, our common stock paid to a foreign financial institution or to a foreign entity other than a financial institution, unless (i) the foreign financial institution undertakes certain diligence and reporting obligations or (ii) the foreign entity

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that is not a financial institution either certifies it does not have any substantial United States owners or furnishes identifying information regarding each substantial United States owner. If the payee is a foreign financial institution (that is not otherwise exempt), it must enter into an agreement with the United States Treasury requiring, among other things, that it undertake to identify accounts held by certain United States persons or United States-owned foreign entities, annually report certain information about such accounts, and withhold 30% on payments to account holders whose actions prevent it from complying with these reporting and other requirements. Alternatively, if the foreign financial institution is a resident in a jurisdiction that has entered into an intergovernmental agreement to implement FATCA, it must comply with the revised diligence and reporting obligations of such intergovernmental agreement. Prospective investors should consult their tax advisors regarding these withholding rules.

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

### **Other Tax Considerations**

#### ***Legislative or Other Actions Affecting REITs***

The rules dealing with U.S. federal income taxation are constantly under review by persons involved in the legislative process and by the IRS and the U.S. Treasury Department. No assurance can be given as to whether, when, or in what form, the U.S. federal income tax laws applicable to us and our stockholders may be enacted. Changes to the U.S. federal income tax laws and interpretations of U.S. federal tax laws could adversely affect an investment in our common stock.

## BOOK-ENTRY SECURITIES

Retail Opportunity Investments Corp. and Retail Opportunity Investments Partnership, LP may issue the securities offered by means of this prospectus 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. If securities are issued in book entry form, they 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. The Depository Trust Company is expected to serve as depository. Unless and until it is exchanged in whole or in part for the individual securities represented thereby, a global security may not be transferred except as a whole by the depository for the global security to a nominee of such depository or by a nominee of such depository to such depository or another nominee of such depository or by the depository or any nominee of such depository to a successor depository or a nominee of such successor. Global securities may be issued in either registered or bearer form and in either temporary or permanent form. The specific terms of the depository arrangement with respect to a class or series of securities that differ from the terms described herein will be described in the applicable prospectus supplement.

Unless otherwise indicated in the applicable prospectus supplement, we anticipate that the following provisions 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 such global security to the accounts of persons that have accounts with such depository, who are called “participants.” Such accounts shall 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 such 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. Such 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, such depository or nominee, as the case may be, will be considered the sole owner or holder of the securities represented by such global security for all purposes under the applicable 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 such 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 thereof under the applicable 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 such securities. None of us, our officers and board members 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 such 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 such securities, will immediately credit its participants’ accounts with

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payments in amounts proportionate to their respective beneficial interests in the principal amount of such global security for such securities as shown on the records of such depository or its nominee. We also expect that payments by participants to owners of beneficial interests in such global security held through such 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 “street name.” Such payments will be the responsibility of such participants.

## PLAN OF DISTRIBUTION

Retail Opportunity Investments Corp. and Retail Opportunity Investments Partnership, LP may sell the securities to one or more underwriters for public offering and sale by them or may sell the securities to investors directly or through agents. Any underwriter or agent involved in the offer and sale of the securities will be named in the applicable prospectus supplement. Underwriters and agents in any distribution contemplated hereby, including but not limited to “at the market” equity offerings, may from time to time be designated on terms to be set forth in the applicable prospectus supplement. Underwriters or agents could make sales in privately negotiated transactions and/or any other method permitted by law, including sales deemed to be an “at the market” offering as defined in Rule 415 promulgated under the Securities Act, which includes sales made directly on The Nasdaq Global Market, the existing trading market for our common stock, or sales made to or through a market maker other than on an exchange.

Underwriters may offer and sell the securities at a fixed price or prices, which may be changed in relation to the prevailing market prices at the time of sale or at negotiated prices. Retail Opportunity Investments Corp. and Retail Opportunity Investments Partnership, LP also may, from time to time, authorize underwriters acting as their agents to offer and sell the securities upon the terms and conditions as are set forth in the applicable prospectus supplement. If indicated in the prospectus supplement, Retail Opportunity Investments Corp. and Retail Opportunity Investments Partnership, LP may authorize underwriters or other agents to solicit offers by institutions to purchase securities from it pursuant to contracts providing for payment and delivery on a future date. Institutions with which it may make these delayed delivery contracts include commercial and savings banks, insurance companies, pension funds, investment companies, educational and charitable institutions and others. In connection with the sale of securities, underwriters may be deemed to have received compensation from us in the form of underwriting discounts or commissions and may also receive commissions from purchasers of securities for whom they may act as agent. Underwriters may sell securities to or through dealers, and the dealers may receive compensation in the form of discounts, concessions or commissions from the underwriters and/or commissions from the purchasers for whom they may act as agent.

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

In compliance with the guidelines of the Financial Industry Regulatory Authority, or FINRA, the aggregate maximum discount, commission or agency fees or other items constituting underwriting compensation to be received by any FINRA member or independent broker-dealer will not exceed 8% of any offering pursuant to this prospectus and any applicable prospectus supplement or pricing supplement, as the case may be; however, it is anticipated that the maximum commission or discount to be received in any particular offering of securities will be less than this amount.

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

The underwriters and their affiliates may be customers of, engage in transactions with and perform services for Retail Opportunity Investments Corp. and Retail Opportunity Investments Partnership, LP and their respective subsidiaries in the ordinary course of business.

## LEGAL MATTERS

Clifford Chance US LLP will pass upon the validity of the securities Retail Opportunity Investments Corp. and Retail Opportunity Investments Partnership, LP are offering under this prospectus and certain federal income tax matters. If the validity of any securities is also passed upon by counsel for the underwriters of an offering of those securities, that counsel will be named in the prospectus supplement relating to that offering.

## EXPERTS

The consolidated financial statements of Retail Opportunity Investments Corp. appearing in Retail Opportunity Investments Corp.'s Annual Report (Form 10-K) for the year ended December 31, 2012 (including the schedules appearing therein), and the effectiveness of Retail Opportunity Investments Corp.'s internal control over financial reporting as of December 31, 2012 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 and Retail Opportunity Investments Corp.'s management's assessment of the effectiveness of internal control over financial reporting as of December 31, 2012 are incorporated herein by reference in reliance upon such reports given on the authority of such firm as experts in accounting and auditing.

The (i) Statement of Revenues and Certain Expenses of Gateway Shopping Center included in Retail Opportunity Investment Corp.'s Current Report on Form 8-K filed with the SEC on July 13, 2012; (ii) Statement of Revenues and Certain Expenses of Marlin Cove included in Retail Opportunity Investment Corp.'s Current Report on Form 8-K filed with the SEC on July 13, 2012; (iii) Statement of Revenues and Certain Expenses of Glendora Shopping Center included in Retail Opportunity Investment Corp.'s Current Report on Form 8-K filed with the SEC on January 3, 2013; (iv) Statement of Revenues and Certain Expenses of Santa Teresa Village Shopping Center included in Retail Opportunity Investment Corp.'s Current Report on Form 8-K filed with the SEC on January 3, 2013; (v) the combined Statement of Revenues and Certain Expenses of The Barros Properties included in Retail Opportunity Investment Corp.'s Current Report on Form 8-K/A filed with the SEC on February 22, 2013; (vi) the Statement of Revenues and Certain Expenses of Canyon Crossing Shopping Center included in Retail Opportunity Investment Corp.'s Current Report on Form 8-K filed with the SEC on May 29, 2013; and (vii) the Statement of Revenues and Certain Expenses of Diamond Hills Plaza included in Retail Opportunity Investment Corp.'s Current Report on Form 8-K filed with the SEC on May 29, 2013, all have been audited by PKF O'Connor Davies, independent auditors, as stated in their reports, which are incorporated herein by reference in reliance upon the reports of such firm as experts in accounting and auditing.

## WHERE YOU CAN FIND MORE INFORMATION

We are subject to the informational requirements of the Exchange Act and, in accordance therewith, we file annual, quarterly and current reports, proxy statements and other information with the SEC. You may read and copy any reports, statements or other information we file at the SEC's public reference room located at 100 F Street, NE, Washington, D.C. 20549. Please call the SEC at 1-800-SEC-0330 for further information on the public reference room. Our SEC filings are also available to the public from commercial document retrieval services and at the website maintained by the SEC, containing reports, proxy and information statements, and other information regarding issuers that file electronically with the SEC, at <http://www.sec.gov>.

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

The SEC allows us to "incorporate by reference" information into this prospectus, which means that we can disclose important information to you by referring you to another document filed separately with the SEC. The information incorporated by reference herein is deemed to be part of this prospectus, except for any information superseded by information in this prospectus. This prospectus incorporates by reference the documents set forth below that we have previously filed with the SEC. These documents contain important information about us, our business and our finances.

<u>Document</u>	<u>Period</u>
Annual Report on Form 10-K (File No. 001-33749)	Year ended December 31, 2012
Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q (File No. 001-33749)	Quarter ended March 31, 2013
<u>Document</u>	<u>Dated</u>
Definitive Proxy Statement on Schedule 14A (only with respect to information contained in such Definitive Proxy Statement that is incorporated by reference into Part III of Retail Opportunity Investment Corp.'s Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2012) (File No. 001-33749)	April 1, 2013
<u>Document</u>	<u>Dated</u>
Description of Retail Opportunity Investment Corp.'s common stock contained in its Registration Statement on Form 8-A (File No. 001-33749)	November 2, 2009
Description of Retail Opportunity Investment Corp.'s common stock contained in its Registration Statement on Form 8-A/A (File No. 001-33749)	June 3, 2011
<u>Document</u>	<u>Filed</u>
Current Report on Form 8-K (File No. 001-33749)	January 2, 2013
Current Report on Form 8-K (File No. 001-33749)	January 3, 2013
Current Report on Form 8-K (File No. 001-33749)	January 3, 2013
Current Report on Form 8-K (File No. 001-33749)	January 3, 2013
Current Report on Form 8-K (File No. 001-33749)	February 7, 2013
Current Report on Form 8-K/A (File No. 001-33749)	February 22, 2013
Current Report on Form 8-K (File No. 001-33749)	May 7, 2013
Current Report on Form 8-K (File No. 001-33749)	May 29, 2013

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### **Document**

Statement of Revenues and Certain Expenses of Gateway Shopping Center, including the independent auditors' report and notes thereto, included in Retail Opportunity Investment Corp.'s Current Report on Form 8-K filed with the SEC on July 13, 2012.

Statement of Revenues and Certain Expenses of Marlin Cove, including the independent auditors' report and notes thereto, included in Retail Opportunity Investment Corp.'s Current Report on Form 8-K filed with the SEC on July 13, 2012.

Statement of Revenues and Certain Expenses of Glendora Shopping Center, including the independent auditors' report and notes thereto, included in Retail Opportunity Investment Corp.'s Current Report on Form 8-K filed with the SEC on January 3, 2013.

Statement of Revenues and Certain Expenses of Santa Teresa Village Shopping Center, including the independent auditors' report and notes thereto, included in the Retail Opportunity Investment Corp.'s Current Report on Form 8-K filed with the SEC on January 3, 2013.

Combined Statement of Revenues and Certain Expenses of The Barros Properties, including the independent auditors' report and notes thereto, included in Retail Opportunity Investment Corp.'s Current Report on Form 8-K/A filed with the SEC on February 22, 2013.

Statement of Revenues and Certain Expenses of Canyon Crossing Shopping Center, including the independent auditors' report and notes thereto, included in Retail Opportunity Investment Corp.'s Current Report on Form 8-K filed with the SEC on May 29, 2013.

Statement of Revenues and Certain Expenses of Diamond Hills Plaza, including the independent auditors' report and notes thereto, included in Retail Opportunity Investment Corp.'s Current Report on Form 8-K filed with the SEC on May 29, 2013.

All documents that we file pursuant to Section 13(a), 13(c), 14 or 15(d) of the Exchange Act after the date of this prospectus but before the termination of any offering of securities made under this prospectus will also be considered to be incorporated by reference.

If you request, either orally or in writing, we will provide you with a copy of any or all documents that are incorporated by reference. Such documents will be provided to you free of charge, but will not contain any exhibits, unless those exhibits are incorporated by reference into the document. Requests should be addressed to Retail Opportunity Investments Corp., 8905 Towne Centre Drive, San Diego, California 92122, telephone: (858) 677-0900.