

Chesapeake Lodging Trust  
Form DEF 14A  
April 12, 2016  
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**UNITED STATES**  
**SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION**  
**Washington, D.C. 20549**

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

Filed by the Registrant

Filed by a party other than the Registrant

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**CHESAPEAKE LODGING TRUST**

**(Name of Registrant as Specified In Its Charter)**

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Dear Shareholder:

On behalf of the Board of Trustees, we are pleased to invite you to attend the 2016 Annual Meeting of Shareholders of Chesapeake Lodging Trust, to be held on May 17, 2016 at 9 a.m., local time, at the Courtyard Washington Capitol Hill/Navy Yard, located at 140 L Street, SE, Washington, DC 20003. You may attend the meeting in person or by proxy. Only shareholders or their legal proxy holders will be allowed to attend the 2016 Annual Meeting. To be admitted to the 2016 Annual Meeting, you must present a form of government-issued photo identification and an admission ticket, valid proof of ownership of the Trust's common shares as of April 1, 2016 or a valid legal proxy. Please refer to page 44 of this proxy statement for more logistical information about attending the 2016 Annual Meeting.

Your vote is important. We strongly urge you to cast your vote as soon as possible, even if you currently plan to attend the meeting in person. You may vote your shares by following the instructions on the proxy card or the voting instruction card you received.

We appreciate your investment in the Trust and look forward to seeing you at our 2016 Annual Meeting.

Sincerely,

Thomas A. Natelli

Chairman of the Board of Trustees

James L. Francis

President and Chief Executive Officer

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**NOTICE OF THE 2016 ANNUAL MEETING**

The 2016 Annual Meeting of Shareholders (the "2016 Annual Meeting") of Chesapeake Lodging Trust, a Maryland real estate investment trust (the "Trust"), will be held at the time and place and for the purposes indicated below.

**Time and Date:** 9 a.m., local time, on May 17, 2016.

**Place:** Courtyard Washington Capitol Hill/Navy Yard  
140 L Street, SE, Washington, DC 20003

**Items of Business:** To elect seven trustees from the nominees named in the attached proxy statement to serve until the 2017 Annual Meeting or until their successors are elected and qualified (Proposal 1);

To ratify the appointment of Ernst & Young LLP as the Trust's independent registered public accounting firm for the year ending December 31, 2016 (Proposal 2);

To approve, through a non-binding advisory vote, the Trust's executive compensation program (Proposal 3);

To approve an amendment to the Trust's charter that would, if approved, permit shareholders to act to amend our bylaws in certain circumstances (Proposal 4);

To consider a non-binding shareholder proposal if properly presented at the 2016 Annual Meeting (Proposal 5); and

To transact such other matters as may properly come before the meeting and any adjournment or postponement thereof.

**Recommendations of the Board:** The Board of Trustees unanimously recommends that you vote on the proxy card or voting instruction form as follows:

FOR each of the trustee nominees in Proposal 1, FOR Proposal 2, FOR Proposal 3, and FOR Proposal 4; and AGAINST Proposal 5.

**Adjournments and Postponements:** Any action on the items of business described above may be considered at the 2016 Annual Meeting at the time and on the date specified above or at any time and date to which the 2016 Annual Meeting may be properly adjourned or postponed.

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**Record Date:**

Our Board of Trustees has set April 1, 2016 as the record date for determining the holders of the Trust's common shares that are eligible to vote at the 2016 Annual Meeting.

**Voting:**

**Your vote is very important.** To ensure your representation at the meeting, please vote your shares as soon as possible, even if you currently plan to attend. You are urged to submit your proxy card in the envelope provided to you so that your shares can be voted at the 2016 Annual Meeting in accordance with your instructions. For specific instructions on voting, please refer to the instruction on voting beginning on page 2 or on the proxy card or voting instruction form.

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If you have any questions or require any assistance voting your shares, please contact our proxy solicitor at the following telephone numbers or address:

MacKenzie Partners  
(212) 929-5500 or toll-free (800) 322-2885  
105 Madison Ave, 17th Floor, New York, New York 10016

**Corporate Headquarters:** 1997 Annapolis Exchange Parkway, Suite 410, Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
By Order of the Board of Trustees

Graham J. Wootten,  
Senior Vice President,  
Chief Accounting Officer and Secretary

April 12, 2016

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**CHESAPEAKE LODGING TRUST**

**PROXY STATEMENT**

**2016 ANNUAL MEETING OF SHAREHOLDERS**

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**PROXY STATEMENT**

**2016 ANNUAL MEETING**

**May 17, 2016**

**GENERAL INFORMATION**

We are providing these proxy materials in connection with the solicitation by the Board of Trustees (the Board) of Chesapeake Lodging Trust of proxies to be voted at our 2016 Annual Meeting and at any adjournment or postponement. The proxies will be used at our 2016 Annual Meeting to be held on May 17, 2016 beginning at 9 a.m., local time, at the Courtyard Washington Capitol Hill/Navy Yard, 140 L Street, SE, Washington, DC 20003.

The proxy materials include our Notice of the 2016 Annual Meeting and Proxy Statement. These materials also include the proxy card and postage-paid return envelope or voting instruction form for the 2016 Annual Meeting.

This proxy statement contains important information regarding our 2016 Annual Meeting. Specifically, it identifies the proposals on which you are being asked to vote, provides information that you may find useful in determining how to vote, and describes voting procedures. Our proxy materials are first being distributed on or about April 12, 2016 to holders of record of our common shares of beneficial interest at the close of business on April 1, 2016.

**Purpose of the Meeting**

Shareholders are being asked to vote on the following matters at the 2016 Annual Meeting:

the election of seven trustee nominees identified in Proposal 1 to the Board;

the ratification of the appointment of Ernst & Young LLP as the Trust's independent registered public accounting firm for the year ending December 31, 2016 as set forth in Proposal 2;

the approval, on a non-binding advisory basis, of the Trust's executive compensation program as set forth in Proposal 3;

the approval of an amendment to the Trust's charter that would, if approved, permit shareholders to act to amend our bylaws in certain circumstances as set forth in Proposal 4;

the consideration of a non-binding shareholder proposal as set forth in Proposal 5; and

the consideration of any other appropriate matters properly brought before the meeting or any adjournment or postponement of the meeting.

Other than the items of business described in this proxy statement, we are not aware of any other business to be acted upon at the 2016 Annual Meeting.

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### **Recommendations of the Board of Trustees**

The Board recommends that you vote as follows:

**FOR** election of seven trustee nominees nominated by the Board and named in Proposal 1;

**FOR** ratification of the appointment of Ernst & Young LLP as the Trust's independent registered public accounting firm for the year ending December 31, 2016 as set forth in Proposal 2;

**FOR** approval of the Trust's executive compensation program as set forth in Proposal 3;

**FOR** approval of the proposed charter amendment as set forth in Proposal 4; and

**AGAINST** the non-binding shareholder proposal as set forth in Proposal 5.

If you grant a proxy on your proxy card, the persons named as proxy holders, James L. Francis, Douglas W. Vicari and Graham J. Wootten, or any of them, will have the discretion to vote your shares on those matters for which such action is permitted by Rule 14a-4(c) at the meeting or any adjournment or postponement thereof. If any of our nominees becomes unable or for good cause unwilling to serve, the persons named as proxy holders will vote all shares represented by your validly submitted proxy for such other candidate or candidates as may be nominated by the Board.

### **Who May Attend the Meeting and Vote**

Only holders of record of our common shares outstanding at the close of business on the record date of April 1, 2016 will be entitled to receive notice of and to vote at the meeting or at any adjournment or postponement of the 2016 Annual Meeting. On the record date, we had 60,083,747 common shares issued and outstanding.

Only shareholders or their legal proxy holders will be allowed to attend the 2016 Annual Meeting. To be admitted to the 2016 Annual Meeting, you must present a form of government-issued photo identification and an admission ticket, valid proof of ownership of the Trust's common shares as of April 1, 2016 or a valid legal proxy. Please refer to page 44 of this proxy statement for more logistical information about attending the 2016 Annual Meeting.

### **Quorum**

The presence in person or by proxy of the holders of a majority of the outstanding common shares will constitute a quorum for the transaction of business at the 2016 Annual Meeting. Abstentions and broker non-votes, as described below, will be counted in determining whether a quorum exists. If the shareholders present or represented by proxy at the 2016 Annual Meeting constitute holders of less than a majority of the shares entitled to vote, the meeting may be adjourned to a subsequent date for the purpose of obtaining a quorum.

### **Voting Rights**

Each holder of common shares is entitled to cast one vote for each common share owned on April 1, 2016, the record date of the 2016 Annual Meeting. With respect to the election of each nominee for trustee and with respect to all other matters, shareholders may vote **For**, **Against** or **Abstain**.

### **Voting Your Shares**

***Voting shares prior to, or without attending, the 2016 Annual Meeting.*** We strongly urge you to cast your vote as soon as possible, even if you currently plan to attend the meeting in person. Whether you hold shares directly as the shareholder of record or through a bank, broker, trustee or other nominee as the beneficial owner, you may direct how your shares are voted prior to, or without attending, the 2016 Annual Meeting.

Shareholders of record may submit proxies by completing, signing, and dating their proxy card and returning it in the accompanying pre-addressed, postage-prepaid envelope. Your proxy card must be received no



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later than May 16, 2016 for your shares to be voted at the 2016 Annual Meeting. If you are a beneficial owner, that is, you hold your common shares through a bank, broker, trustee or other nominee, you must provide your nominee with appropriate voting instructions as set forth on the voting instruction card you receive from your nominee no later than 11:59 p.m. EDT on May 16, 2016. If you do not provide your nominee with these instructions, your nominee will not have discretionary authority to vote your shares on your behalf on Proposals 1, 3, 4 and 5, which are non-routine matters. As a result, your failure to provide these instructions will result in a broker non-vote for Proposals 1, 3, 4 and 5. Beneficial owners may provide instructions to their bank, broker, trustee or other nominee holding their shares in one of these three ways:

**By Internet** Beneficial owners may give instructions over the Internet by following the instructions on the voting instruction card you received from your nominee.

**By Telephone** Beneficial owners may give instructions by telephone by calling the number on the voting instruction card you received from your nominee and following the instructions. You will need to have the control number that appears on the proxy or voting instruction card available when voting.

**By Mail** Beneficial owners may give instructions by completing, signing and dating their voting instruction card received from your nominee and mailing it in the accompanying pre-addressed, postage-prepaid envelope.

We encourage you to provide voting instructions to the organization that holds your shares. Please return your completed proxy card or voting instruction form to your broker and contact the person responsible for your account, or vote by internet or telephone so that your vote can be counted.

***Voting shares in person at the 2016 Annual Meeting.*** Shares held in your name as the shareholder of record may be voted in person at the 2016 Annual Meeting. Shares for which you are the beneficial owner but not the shareholder of record may be voted in person only if you obtain a legal proxy from the bank, broker, trustee or nominee that holds your shares giving you the right to vote the shares. Even if you plan to attend the 2016 Annual Meeting, we recommend that you vote by proxy as described above so that your vote will be counted if you later decide not to attend the meeting.

***If additional matters are presented at the 2016 Annual Meeting.*** Other than the items of business described in this proxy statement, we are not aware of any other business to be acted upon at the 2016 Annual Meeting. If you grant a proxy, the persons named as proxy holders, James L. Francis, Douglas W. Vicari and Graham J. Wooten, or any of them, will have the discretion to vote your shares on any additional matters properly presented for a vote at the meeting. If any nominee becomes unable or for good cause unwilling to serve, the Board may recommend a substitute nominee. The shares represented by all validly submitted proxies may be voted in favor of the election of such substitute nominee.

## **Changing Your Vote**

You may change your vote before the vote at the 2016 Annual Meeting in accordance with the following procedures. If you are a shareholder of record, you may change your vote by granting a new proxy bearing a later date (which automatically **revokes** the earlier proxy), by providing a written notice of revocation to our Secretary at the Trust's headquarters address in Annapolis, Maryland, no later than May 16, 2016, or by attending the 2016 Annual Meeting and voting in person. Attendance at the meeting alone will not cause your previously granted proxy to be revoked unless you specifically make that request. For shares you hold beneficially in the name of a bank, broker, trustee or other nominee, you may change your vote by submitting new voting instructions to your bank, broker, trustee or nominee by 11:59 p.m. EDT on May 16, 2016, or, if you have obtained a legal proxy from your bank, broker, trustee or other nominee giving you the right to vote your shares, by attending the 2016 Annual Meeting and voting in person.

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### **Required Vote**

***Election of Trustees.*** Under our bylaws, to be elected in an uncontested election, trustee nominees must receive the affirmative vote of a majority of the votes cast, which means that the number of shares voted for a nominee must exceed the number of shares voted against that nominee. Common shares not voted (whether by abstention, broker non-vote or otherwise) will not be counted as a vote cast for or against a nominee's election.

If an incumbent trustee were to fail to be re-elected by a majority of votes cast, that trustee would be required under our bylaws to tender his or her resignation to the Board. The Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee will make a recommendation to the Board on whether to accept or reject the resignation, or whether other action should be taken. The Board is required to act on the Committee's recommendation and publicly disclose its decision and its rationale within 90 days after the election results are certified. Notwithstanding the foregoing, our bylaws require the Board to accept any such resignation if the nominee has received more votes against than for his or her election at each of two consecutive annual meetings of shareholders.

***Ratification of Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm.*** Approval of this proposal requires that the number of votes cast for the proposal exceeds the number of votes cast against the proposal. Any common shares not voted (whether by abstention, broker non-vote or otherwise) will not affect the vote.

***Non-binding Advisory Vote to Approve the Trust's Executive Compensation Program.*** Approval of this proposal requires that the number of votes cast for the proposal exceeds the number of votes cast against the proposal. Any common shares not voted (whether by abstention, broker non-vote or otherwise) will not affect the vote. Although this proposal is not binding on us, the Board and its Compensation Committee will consider the results of the shareholder vote in determining future executive compensation matters.

***Amendment of our Charter to Permit our Shareholders to Act to Amend our Bylaws in Certain Circumstances.*** Approval of this proposal requires the affirmative vote of the holders of not less than a majority of our common shares outstanding and entitled to vote at the 2016 Annual Meeting. Any common shares not voted (whether by abstention, broker non-vote or otherwise) will have the effect of a vote against Proposal 4.

***Non-binding Shareholder Proposal.*** Approval of the non-binding shareholder proposal requires that the number of votes cast for the proposal exceeds the number of votes cast against the proposal. Any common shares not voted (whether by abstention, broker non-vote or otherwise) will not affect the vote.

### **Proxy Solicitation Costs**

The Trust will pay the cost of preparing, assembling, printing, mailing, and distributing its proxy materials. We will also bear the cost of soliciting votes. The Trust will provide copies of these proxy materials to banks, brokerage houses, fiduciaries, and custodians holding in their names our common shares beneficially owned by others so that they may forward these proxy materials to the beneficial owners. Our trustees, officers or employees may solicit proxies or votes for us in person, or by mail, telephone, electronic communication or other means. They will not receive any additional compensation for these solicitation activities. We will enlist the help of banks, brokers and other nominee holders in soliciting proxies for the 2016 Annual Meeting from their customers who are beneficial owners of our common shares and will reimburse those firms for their reasonable related out-of-pocket expenses. MacKenzie Partners, Inc. has been retained to assist us in the solicitation of proxies, for which they will receive an estimated fee of \$10,000, plus reimbursement of their normal and customary expenses.

### **Inspector of Elections**

The inspector of elections will be a representative from our transfer agent, American Stock Transfer & Trust Company, LLC.

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**CORPORATE GOVERNANCE AND BOARD MATTERS**

**Corporate Governance Highlights**

The Board and the Trust have instituted strong corporate governance practices, a number of which are described below, to ensure that the Trust operates in ways that support the long-term interests of our shareholders. Important corporate governance practices of the Trust include the following:

All of our trustees are elected annually.

We have a majority vote standard for trustee elections and a trustee resignation policy.

We do not have a shareholder rights plan (poison pill), and the Board is generally restricted from adopting a poison pill without prior shareholder approval unless compelled by its fiduciary duties to adopt one.

We have opted out of Maryland's anti-takeover statutes, and may not elect to take advantage of these to deter a change in control without future shareholder approval.

Five of our seven trustees are independent, including our Chairman.

We have a robust shareholder engagement program.

We separate the positions of Chairman and CEO.

Our trustees and senior executives are subject to meaningful share ownership guidelines.

Mergers and other business combinations involving the Trust generally may be approved by a simple majority vote.

We maintain a policy that prohibits trustees and senior executives from hedging and pledging shares they own in the Trust.

The Compensation Discussion and Analysis section of this proxy statement discusses in more detail the Trust's compensation-related governance practices, which are designed to align the interests of management with those of our shareholders.

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

Our Board consists of seven trustees. Our Board is elected annually by our shareholders in accordance with our bylaws. Our bylaws provide that a majority of the entire Board may establish, increase or decrease the number of trustees, provided that the number of trustees shall never be less than one or more than eleven. All of our executive officers serve at the discretion of our Board.

The Board exercises substantial independent oversight over the Trust's business. As discussed in greater detail below, a majority of the trustees on the Board, including our non-executive Chairman of the Board, are independent under the New York Stock Exchange ( NYSE ) listing



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standards, and each of the Board's Audit, Compensation, and Nominating and Corporate Governance Committees are comprised entirely of independent trustees. Also, by separating the roles of Chief Executive Officer and Chairman of the Board, we ensure a greater role for our independent trustees in the oversight of the Trust. We believe this leadership structure is most appropriate for us because, in addition to enhancing independent oversight, it also enables our Chief Executive Officer to focus on the day-to-day leadership and performance of the Trust. In 2015, the Board held 10 meetings and each trustee attended at least 75% of all meetings of the Board and the standing committees of the Board on which he served. It is our policy that Board members attend our annual meetings of shareholders. All of them did so in 2015, and we anticipate that each of them will attend the 2016 Annual Meeting.

The Board believes that evaluating how senior management identifies, assesses, manages and monitors the various risks confronting the Trust is one of its most important areas of oversight. In carrying out this critical responsibility, the Board oversees the Trust's risk management function through regular discussions with senior management. While the Board has primary responsibility for overseeing the Trust's risk management function,

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each committee of the Board also considers risk within its area of responsibility. For example, the Audit Committee is primarily responsible for reviewing risks relating to accounting and financial controls, and the Compensation Committee reviews risks related to compensation matters. The Board is apprised by the committee chairs of significant risks and management's response to those risks via periodic reports. While the Board and its committees oversee the Trust's risk management function, management is responsible for implementing day-to-day risk management processes and reporting to the Board and its committees on such matters.

### **Trustee Independence and Corporate Governance**

Our Board consists of seven trustees, each of whom is identified below. Aside from Messrs. Francis and Vicari, our Board has determined that each of our trustees is independent, as defined by the NYSE listing standards. Our Board has three committees, the principal functions of which are briefly described below. Each of these committees is comprised entirely of independent trustees, as defined by the NYSE listing standards. Moreover, the Compensation Committee is comprised exclusively of individuals intended to qualify as "non-employee" trustees for purposes of Rule 16b-3 of the Exchange Act of 1934 and "outside" trustees for purposes of Section 162(m) of the Internal Revenue Code.

We have adopted charters for all three of our standing Board committees. You may obtain current copies of these charters on the "Corporate Governance" page of our website at [www.chesapeakelodgingtrust.com](http://www.chesapeakelodgingtrust.com).

**Audit Committee.** Our Audit Committee is comprised of Messrs. Eckert, Nuechterlein and McKenzie. Mr. Eckert chairs the committee and has been determined by our Board to be an audit committee financial expert within the meaning of applicable Securities and Exchange Commission (the "SEC") rules. Our Audit Committee met four times in 2015.

The Audit Committee's primary duties and assigned roles are to:

serve as an independent and objective body to monitor and assess our compliance with legal and regulatory requirements, our financial reporting processes and related internal control systems and the performance, generally, of our internal audit function;

oversee the audit and other services of our independent registered public accounting firm and be directly responsible for the appointment, independence, qualifications, compensation and oversight of the independent registered public accounting firm, who reports directly to the Audit Committee;

provide an open avenue of communication among the independent registered public accounting firm, financial and senior management, the firm to which the Trust has outsourced its internal auditing function and our Board;

resolve any disagreements between management and the independent registered public accounting firm regarding financial reporting;

review and discuss with management policies and guidelines to govern the process by which management assesses and manages the Trust's risks, including the Trust's major financial risk exposures and the steps management has taken to monitor and control such exposures; and

consider and approve certain transactions between us and our trustees, executive officers, trustee nominees or 5% or greater beneficial owners, any of their immediate family members or entities affiliated with them.

**Compensation Committee.** Our Compensation Committee is comprised of Messrs. Hill, Natelli and Eckert. Mr. Hill chairs the committee. Our Compensation Committee met twice in 2015.

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The Compensation Committee's principal functions are to:

evaluate the performance of and compensation paid by us to our President and Chief Executive Officer and other executive officers and trustees;

administer the Chesapeake Lodging Trust Equity Plan, or Equity Plan;

conduct a risk assessment of the Trust's overall compensation policies; and

produce a report on executive compensation required to be included in our proxy statement for our annual meeting of shareholders or our Annual Report on Form 10-K, including the Compensation Discussion and Analysis section.

Pursuant to its charter, the Compensation Committee has the authority to delegate any of its authority or responsibilities to individual members of the committee or a subcommittee of the Compensation Committee, but did not delegate any of its responsibilities during 2015. The Compensation Committee also has the authority to retain outside compensation consultants for advice. The Compensation Committee is directly responsible for the appointment, compensation and oversight of any such consultant, and the Trust is responsible for providing appropriate funding for payment of reasonable compensation to any such consultant, as determined by the Compensation Committee. In selecting a consultant, the Compensation Committee evaluates its independence by considering the following six factors and any other factors the Compensation Committee deems relevant to the consultant's independence from management:

provision of other services to the Trust by the person that employs the consultant;

amount of fees paid by the Trust to the person that employs the consultant, as a percentage of that person's total revenue;

policies and procedures of the person that employs the consultant regarding prevention of conflicts of interest;

any business or personal relationship between the consultant and any member of the Compensation Committee;

ownership by the consultant of the Trust's shares; and

any business or personal relationship between the consultant, or any person that employs the consultant and any executive officer of the Trust.

In 2015, the Compensation Committee retained Frederic W. Cook & Co. (Cook & Co.) as an independent consultant to advise it on executive compensation matters and to conduct a comprehensive review of the design and structure of the Trust's executive compensation program. The Compensation Committee considered the above six factors and determined that Cook & Co. qualifies as an independent compensation consultant in accordance with applicable SEC and NYSE rules. For a further discussion of the Compensation Committee's decision-making processes with respect to executive compensation, as well as the advice provided by Cook & Co., see Compensation Discussion and Analysis below.

***Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee.*** Our Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee is comprised of Messrs. McKenzie, Hill and Nuechterlein. Mr. McKenzie chairs the committee. Our Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee met once in 2015. The Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee's principal functions are to:

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identify individuals qualified to become Board members and recommend to our Board candidates for election or re-election to the Board;

consider and make recommendations to our Board concerning the size and composition of our Board, committee structure and makeup, retirement policies and procedures affecting Board members; and

take a leadership role with respect to the development, implementation and review of our corporate governance principles and practices.

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The Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee's charter sets forth certain criteria for the committee to consider in evaluating potential trustee nominees. The charter requires that the committee select nominees who have the highest personal and professional integrity, who shall have demonstrated exceptional ability and judgment and who shall be most effective, in conjunction with the other nominees to the Board, in collectively serving our long-term interests and those of our shareholders. The committee also is required to assess whether the candidate possesses the skills, knowledge, perspective, broad business judgment and leadership, relevant specific industry or regulatory affairs knowledge, business creativity and vision, experience, age and diversity, all in the context of an assessment of the perceived needs of the Board at that time. For those trustee candidates that appear upon first consideration to meet the committee's criteria, the committee will engage in further research to evaluate their candidacy.

In making recommendations for trustee nominees for election at an annual meeting of shareholders, the Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee will consider any written suggestions received by our Secretary, not less than 90, nor more than 120 days prior to the anniversary of the prior year's annual meeting of shareholders. Suggestions must be mailed to our Secretary at our corporate headquarters. The manner in which trustee nominee candidates suggested in accordance with this policy are evaluated does not differ from the manner in which candidates recommended by other sources are evaluated.

## **Executive Sessions**

Consistent with the NYSE's corporate governance listing standards, our Board has adopted Principles of Corporate Governance that, among other things, call for the non-officer trustees to meet in regularly scheduled executive sessions without management. Mr. Natelli, our non-executive Chairman of the Board, presides at these executive sessions.

## **Board Communications and Corporate Governance**

The Board values the input and insights of the Trust's shareholders and believes that effective shareholder engagement strengthens the Board's role as an informed and engaged fiduciary. The Trust is committed to serving our shareholders' interests, and recognizes that communicating with shareholders on a regular basis is a critical component of the Trust's corporate governance program. As part of this commitment, management actively engages with our shareholders in order to fully understand their viewpoints concerning the Trust, to gather feedback on what we can do better and to help our shareholders understand our performance and strategy. In addition to answering questions from shareholders on our quarterly earnings calls, the Trust's management regularly engages with investors by participating in industry media conferences, through frequent in-person meetings with our shareholders and prospective investors, and by telephone with many shareholders at other times throughout the year to solicit input and answer questions on a variety of topics. During 2015, the Trust hosted a joint event in San Francisco with another publicly traded lodging company, inviting analysts and significant investors to visit the Trust's hotels in that city and engage in focused dialogue with the Trust's senior management. In addition, interested parties, including shareholders, may communicate their concerns directly to the full Board, the non-executive Chairman of the Board or the non-officer trustees as a group by writing to the Board, the non-executive Chairman of the Board or the non-officer trustees, at our corporate headquarters.

The Board's engagement efforts center on the Trust's corporate governance practices, which it regularly reviews to ensure that the Trust's practices are consistent with prevailing trends and best practices and the views of our shareholders. The Board's responsive approach to corporate governance and willingness to assess and act on constructive proposals from shareholders has been proven throughout the Trust's existence. For example:

In 2011, acting in accordance with best practices in compensation governance, the Trust amended the employment contracts between the Trust and its executive officers to remove from each executive's employment agreement a provision that would have required the Trust to make gross-up payments to

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the executive in amounts equal to any excise taxes incurred by the executive pursuant to Section 4999 of the Internal Revenue Code as a result of his receipt of payments upon termination following a change in control.

In 2014, the Board deliberately considered the substance of each of three proposals submitted to the Trust by the same proponent of Proposal 5. Putting aside the combative nature of the proponent and its history of activism at certain of the Trust's hotels in San Francisco, the Board nevertheless concluded that the substantive proposals were reasonable and in the best interests of the Trust's shareholders. As a result, the Trust implemented three corporate governance initiatives that reinforced the Board's strong commitment to shareholders' interests, particularly in respect of the decision to opt out of, and require shareholder approval before the Trust may elect to become subject to, any of three Maryland statutes that could be viewed as providing publicly traded entities organized in Maryland, like the Trust, with certain defenses against unsolicited or hostile takeover attempts.

In 2015, in response to a shareholder's non-binding proposal that was approved at the 2015 Annual Meeting, the Board approved and adopted a wholly new article of the Trust's bylaws, fully implementing the requested action recommended by the Trust's shareholders. The new bylaw provides that the Board is generally restricted from adopting a poison pill without prior shareholder approval unless compelled by its fiduciary duties to adopt one.

Following significant engagement efforts with the Trust's key shareholders and corporate governance advisors during 2015, the Board responded to the interests of a significant minority of the Trust's investors by recommending the Trust's shareholders adopt the charter amendment at the 2016 Annual Meeting, to provide shareholders the right to amend our bylaws under certain circumstances. We believe this level of responsiveness is one of the many reasons that Institutional Shareholder Services (ISS) has consistently given the Trust high governance scores; our ISS QuickScore rating on governance in March 2015 and again in March 2016 was a 1 – the highest possible score.

## **Code of Business Conduct and Ethics**

Our Board has adopted a Code of Business Conduct and Ethics that applies to each of our trustees, officers and employees. This code sets forth our policies and expectations on a number of topics, including:

compliance with laws, including insider trading;

preservation of confidential information relating to our business;

conflicts of interest;

reporting of illegal or unethical behavior or concerns regarding accounting or auditing practices;

corporate payments;

corporate opportunities; and

the protection and proper use of our assets.

The Audit Committee reviews this code on an annual basis, and the Board will review and act upon any proposed additions or amendments to the code as appropriate. The code is posted on the Corporate Governance page of our website, [www.chesapeakelodgingtrust.com](http://www.chesapeakelodgingtrust.com). You may also

## Edgar Filing: Chesapeake Lodging Trust - Form DEF 14A

obtain a copy of the code without charge by writing to our Secretary at our corporate headquarters. Any waivers of the code for executive officers or trustees will be posted on our website and similarly provided without charge upon written request to this address. No such waivers have been provided to date under the code.

We have established and implemented formal whistleblower procedures for receiving and handling complaints of employees, and have made an email address and a telephone hotline available for reporting illegal

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or unethical behavior as well as questionable accounting or auditing matters and other accounting, internal controls or auditing matters on a confidential, anonymous basis. Any concerns regarding accounting or auditing matters reported via email or to this hotline will be communicated directly to the Audit Committee.

### **Principles of Corporate Governance**

Our Principles of Corporate Governance address a number of other topics, including:

trustee independence and qualification standards;

trustee responsibilities, orientation and continuing education;

trustee compensation;

trustee attendance and retirement;

management succession;

annual Board self-evaluations; and

trustee communication, committees and access to management.

Our Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee reviews the Principles of Corporate Governance on an annual basis, and the Board will review and act upon any proposed additions or amendments to the Principles of Corporate Governance as appropriate.

The Principles of Corporate Governance are posted on the Corporate Governance page of our website, [www.chesapeakelodgingtrust.com](http://www.chesapeakelodgingtrust.com). You may also obtain a copy of our Principles of Corporate Governance without charge by writing to our Secretary at our corporate headquarters. See also Board Communications and Corporate Governance.

## **PROPOSAL 1**

### **ELECTION OF TRUSTEES**

#### **Nominees for Trustee**

Upon the recommendation of our Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee, our Board has nominated the seven persons listed below to serve as trustees for the one-year term ending at our 2017 Annual Meeting, or until their successors, if any, are elected or appointed. Each nominee for election as a trustee has advised of his willingness to be named as a nominee in the proxy statement and to continue serving on the Board if re-elected at the 2016 Annual Meeting. We believe that each nominee will be able to serve if elected. If any nominee becomes unable or for good cause unwilling to serve, the persons named as proxy holders will vote all shares represented by your validly submitted proxy in favor of the remainder of those nominated and for substitute nominees, if designated by the Board.

#### **Trustee Qualifications**

Set forth below is information as of April 1, 2016 concerning each of the nominees for trustee:



## Edgar Filing: Chesapeake Lodging Trust - Form DEF 14A

**James L. Francis**, 54, is our President and Chief Executive Officer and a Trustee, positions he has held since our formation. Prior to co-founding the Trust, Mr. Francis served as the President and Chief Executive Officer and a director of Highland Hospitality Corporation ( Highland ), positions that he held from Highland s IPO in December 2003 to its sale in July 2007. Following the sale of Highland, Mr. Francis served as a consultant to the affiliate of JER Partners that acquired Highland until September 2008. Since September 2008, until our formation, Mr. Francis was a private investor. From June 2002 until joining Highland in December

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2003, Mr. Francis served as the Chief Operating Officer, Chief Financial Officer and Treasurer of Barceló Crestline Corporation, and served as Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer of Crestline Capital Corporation, prior to its acquisition by Barceló, from December 1998 to June 2002. Prior to the spin-off of Crestline Capital from Host Hotels & Resorts, Inc. (formerly Host Marriott Corporation), Mr. Francis held various finance and strategic planning positions with Host Marriott and Marriott International, Inc. From June 1997 to December 1998, Mr. Francis held the position of Assistant Treasurer and Vice President Corporate Finance for Host Marriott, where he was responsible for Host Marriott's corporate finance function, business strategy and investor relations. Over a period of ten years, Mr. Francis served in various capacities with Marriott International's lodging business, including Vice President of Finance for Marriott Lodging from 1995 to 1997; Brand Executive, Courtyard by Marriott from 1994 to 1995; Controller for Courtyard by Marriott and Fairfield Inn from 1993 to 1994; Director of Finance and Strategic Planning for Courtyard by Marriott and Fairfield Inn from 1991 to 1993; and Director of Hotel Development Finance from 1987 to 1991. Mr. Francis received his B.A. in Economics and Business from Western Maryland College and earned an M.B.A. in Finance and Accounting from Vanderbilt University. Mr. Francis currently serves on the board of trustees and as the compensation committee chairman for Gramercy Property Trust, a publicly traded REIT focused on acquiring, owning and operating industrial and office properties, and from 2013 until its merger in December 2015 with Gramercy Property Trust Inc., served as a member of the board of trustees of Chambers Street Properties. We believe Mr. Francis should serve on our board as a result of his principal role in our founding and his extensive experience in the lodging industry.

**Douglas W. Vicari**, 56, is our Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer and a Trustee, positions he has held since our formation. Prior to co-founding the Trust, Mr. Vicari served as a principal with Paramount Hotel Group, a hotel owner, developer and operator, from January 2009 to June 2009. Previously, Mr. Vicari served as Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer of Highland from September 2003 until its sale in July 2007. Prior to joining Highland, Mr. Vicari served as Senior Vice President and Chief Financial Officer of Prime Hospitality Corp., a former NYSE-listed company acquired by an affiliate of The Blackstone Group in 2004, from August 1998 to July 2003, and also served on the board of directors of Prime Hospitality Corp. from May 1999 to July 2003. Prior to his appointment as Chief Financial Officer, he served as Vice President and Treasurer of Prime Hospitality Corp. from January 1991 to July 1998, and was an instrumental member of the management team that led the company out of bankruptcy in July 1992. From 1986 to 1991, Mr. Vicari was Director of Budgeting and Financial Planning for Prime Hospitality Corp, and was responsible for all budgeting, planning and forecasting. Prior to his tenure at Prime Hospitality Corp., Mr. Vicari held numerous management positions at Combustion Engineering (now a part of ABB Group) from 1981 to 1986. Mr. Vicari earned a B.S. in Accounting from the College of New Jersey and received his M.B.A. in Finance from Fairleigh Dickinson University. Mr. Vicari also currently serves on the board of directors and as the audit committee chairman for Thunderbird Resorts Inc. (Euronext: TBIRD), a publicly traded gaming and lodging company. We believe Mr. Vicari should serve on our board due to his principal role in our founding and his experience as a chief financial officer for other lodging companies.

**Thomas A. Natelli**, 56, is the non-executive Chairman of the Board. Since 1987, Mr. Natelli has served as President and Chief Executive Officer of Natelli Communities, a privately held real estate investment and development company. Under Mr. Natelli's leadership, Natelli Communities has earned numerous awards, including the prestigious Urban Land Institute National Award of Excellence for Large Scale Communities, Washington Metro Area Environmental Developer of the Year and Suburban Maryland Builder of the Year. Mr. Natelli currently serves as Vice Chairman of the board of the School of Engineering at Duke University. Previously, Mr. Natelli served on the board of directors and was a member of the audit and nominating and corporate governance committees of Highland from its IPO until its sale in July 2007. In 2007, Mr. Natelli formed MargRock Entertainment, a music publishing and artist development and management services company, for which he currently serves as Principal. In 1999, Mr. Natelli co-founded eStara, Inc., a privately held technology company, for which he served as Chairman and Chief Executive Officer from its inception through its sale to Art Technology Group, Inc. in October 2006. From 1993 through 2003, Mr. Natelli served on the board of trustees of Suburban Hospital Healthcare System, after which he served as Chairman of the board of trustees and

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headed its executive committee until 2006. He also served on the board of directors of FBR National Bank and Trust, a wholly-owned affiliate of Friedman, Billings, Ramsey Group, Inc. Mr. Natelli is a past President of the Board of the Montgomery County Chamber of Commerce, and played a central role in creating the Montgomery Housing Partnership in 1989, a non-profit organization created to preserve and expand the supply of affordable housing in Montgomery County, Maryland. Mr. Natelli received a B.S. in Mechanical Engineering from Duke University in 1982. We believe Mr. Natelli should serve on our board due to his extensive experience in the real estate industry, his entrepreneurial background and financial acumen. Mr. Natelli has served as a Trustee since our initial public offering ( IPO ) in 2010.

**Thomas D. Eckert**, 68, is a Trustee. From 2011 until October 2014, Mr. Eckert served as Chairman, and previously from 1997 to 2011 served as President and Chief Executive Officer, of Capital Automotive Real Estate Services, Inc., or Capital Automotive, a privately owned real estate company that owns and manages net-leased real estate for automotive retailers. Mr. Eckert was one of Capital Automotive's founders and led its IPO in February 1998. Mr. Eckert also served as President and Chief Executive Officer and a trustee of Capital Automotive from its founding until December 2005, when it was taken private. From 1983 to 1997, Mr. Eckert was employed by Pulte Home Corporation, a U.S. homebuilder, serving most recently as President of Pulte's Mid-Atlantic Region. Prior to working at Pulte, Mr. Eckert spent over seven years with the public accounting firm of Arthur Andersen LLP. Mr. Eckert is currently a director and member of the audit and compensation committees of DuPont Fabros Technology, Inc., a publicly-traded owner, developer and manager of wholesale data centers; a director and chairman of the compensation committee of NVR, Inc., the fourth largest homebuilder in the United States; and as a trustee and on the audit and investment committees of Gramercy Property Trust, a publicly traded REIT focused on acquiring, owning and operating industrial and office properties. In addition, Mr. Eckert formerly served as Chairman of the Board of The Munder Funds, a \$10 billion mutual fund group, until its acquisition by Victory Capital Holdings, Inc. in October 2014, and served as a trustee of The Victory Funds, a \$20 billion mutual fund group, until February 2015. He is also an Emeritus Trustee of The College Foundation at the University of Virginia. Mr. Eckert received his bachelor's degree in Business Administration from the University of Michigan in 1970. We believe Mr. Eckert should serve on our board due to his extensive experience in the real estate industry, including as a chief executive officer of a publicly traded REIT. Mr. Eckert has served as a Trustee since our IPO in 2010.

**John W. Hill**, 61, is a Trustee. Since November 2013, Mr. Hill has served as Chief Financial Officer for the City of Detroit, Michigan. Earlier in 2013, Mr. Hill founded a professional services practice specializing in assisting clients in improving their financial management operations. Mr. Hill currently serves as a director and chairman of the audit committee of CoStar Group, Inc. From August 2004 until August 2012, Mr. Hill served as Chief Executive Officer of The Federal City Council, a not-for-profit, non-partisan organization dedicated to the improvement of Washington, DC. Previously, Mr. Hill served on the board of directors and was a member of the audit and compensation committees of Highland from January 2006 until Highland's sale in July 2007. From 2002 until 2004, Mr. Hill served as the Chief Executive Officer of In2Books, Inc. From 1999 until 2002, he was a partner with Andersen, LLP, where he was in charge of state and local consulting for North America. Previously, Mr. Hill also was a director of Marriott Corporation's Internal Audit Division in charge of all financial and operational audits of the hotel division and has been an audit manager for Coopers & Lybrand and Price Waterhouse. Mr. Hill has served on the board and audit committee of Prestwick Pharmaceuticals Inc., a non-public company. Mr. Hill currently serves on the boards of several not-for-profit organizations, including the DC Shakespeare Theatre Board and the National Minority Aids Council. He formerly served on the boards of the DC Children and Youth Investment Trust, the Mayor's Blue Ribbon Commission to Revitalize the DC Public Library, and the DC Public Library Board of Trustees. Mr. Hill earned a B.S. in Accounting from the University of Maryland, College Park in 1976 and passed the Maryland State CPA exam in 1977. We believe Mr. Hill should serve on our board due to his extensive background in accounting and financial matters and his significant leadership experience through his longstanding role with the Federal City Council. Mr. Hill has served as a Trustee since our IPO in 2010.

**George F. McKenzie**, 60, is a Trustee. Mr. McKenzie founded a commercial real estate consulting business in January 2014. From June 2007 until his retirement in October 2013, Mr. McKenzie served as President and

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Chief Executive Officer and a trustee of Washington Real Estate Investment Trust, or WRIT, a self-administered, self-managed, equity real estate investment trust investing in income-producing properties in the greater Washington, DC metro region. Since joining WRIT in September 1996, Mr. McKenzie also served in other executive roles, including Executive Vice President, Real Estate and Chief Operating Officer. From 1985 to 1996, Mr. McKenzie served with the Prudential Realty Group, a subsidiary of Prudential Insurance Company of America, most recently as Vice President, Investment & Sales. From 1977 to 1985, Mr. McKenzie served as an officer in the U.S. Navy. Mr. McKenzie also is a former member of the Board of Governors of the National Association of Real Estate Investment Trusts (NAREIT). He received a B.S. in Operations Analysis from the United States Naval Academy and an M.B.A. in Finance from the University of Rhode Island. Mr. McKenzie is a member of the Economic Club of Washington. We believe Mr. McKenzie should serve on our board due to his extensive experience in the real estate industry, including as a chief executive officer of a publicly traded REIT. Mr. McKenzie has served as a Trustee since our IPO in 2010.

*Jeffrey D. Nuechterlein*, 58, is a Trustee. In 2000, Mr. Nuechterlein founded and since inception has been Managing Partner of Nue Capital LLC, an investment management company focused on public and private equity investments. Mr. Nuechterlein currently serves as a director and chairman of the audit committee of Barington/Hilco Acquisition Corp. (NASDAQ: BHACU). He also is chairman of the board of directors of Cartica Capital, a privately-held, long-only equity manager focused on investments in public companies in emerging markets (Cartica Capital is registered as an investment advisor with the SEC). From 1997 until 2000, Mr. Nuechterlein served as Managing Director and Chief Investment Officer for pension fund investments at National Gypsum Company. From 1995 until 1996, Mr. Nuechterlein was Senior Counsel to the U.S. Trade Representative, and prior to that he served as outside legal counsel to several U.S. semiconductor and steel companies from 1992 until 1995. Mr. Nuechterlein also served as Special Assistant for Policy to the Governor of Virginia from 1990 until 1991, and was Counsel to the U.S. Senate's Judiciary Subcommittee on Technology from 1989 until 1990. Until the company's sale in April 2014, Mr. Nuechterlein served as a director and member of the audit committee of The Jones Group, Inc. Among his non-profit activities, Mr. Nuechterlein serves on the board of Americans for Oxford, Inc. and is a Past President and Emeritus Trustee of The College Foundation at the University of Virginia, a Trustee of the Classical American Homes Preservation Trust in New York and a member of the Council on Foreign Relations. Mr. Nuechterlein received his undergraduate and law degrees from the University of Virginia in 1979 and 1986, respectively, and his master's and D. Phil. degrees from Oxford University. We believe Mr. Nuechterlein should serve on our board due to his extensive investment experience and his legal background. Mr. Nuechterlein has served as a Trustee since our IPO in 2010.

**The Board of Trustees recommends that you vote FOR the election of each nominee named above.**

**PROPOSAL 2**

**RATIFICATION OF INDEPENDENT REGISTERED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS**

The Audit Committee of the Board has appointed Ernst & Young LLP, as the independent registered public accounting firm for the Trust for the year ending December 31, 2016.

Although we are not required to seek shareholder ratification of the appointment of Ernst & Young LLP as the independent registered public accounting firm, we are asking shareholders to do so because we believe that it is a good corporate governance practice. If the shareholders do not ratify the appointment of Ernst & Young LLP, the Audit Committee will reconsider whether or not to retain Ernst & Young LLP as the independent registered public accounting firm for the Trust, but may determine to do so. Even if the appointment of Ernst & Young LLP is ratified by the shareholders, the Audit Committee may change the appointment at any time during the year if it determines that a change would be in the best interest of the Trust and its shareholders.

Representatives of Ernst & Young LLP, the independent registered public accounting firm for the Trust since its inception, will be in attendance at the 2016 Annual Meeting and will have the opportunity to make a statement if they desire to do so and to respond to any appropriate shareholder inquiries.

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The Audit Committee has adopted a policy for the pre-approval of services provided by the independent registered public accounting firm. Under the policy, particular services or categories of services have been pre-approved, subject to a specific budget. At least annually, the Audit Committee is required to review and approve the list of pre-approved services and the threshold estimates of cost of performance of each. Ernst & Young LLP is required to provide detailed information regarding any services to be performed and an estimate of the costs of performance before commencing any work. Under its pre-approval policy, the Audit Committee has delegated pre-approval authority for audit related or non-audit services not exceeding \$100,000 to Mr. Eckert, one of its members. In determining whether a service may be provided pursuant to the pre-approval policy, consideration is given to whether the proposed service would impair the independence of Ernst & Young LLP or any other independent registered public accounting firm providing audit services to the Trust from time to time. In 2015 and 2014, all of the services provided by Ernst & Young LLP were approved by the Audit Committee in accordance with its policies and procedures.

**Fees Billed to the Trust by Ernst & Young LLP for 2015 and 2014**

The following table shows the fees billed to us by Ernst & Young LLP for audit and other services provided for 2015 and 2014:

	2015	2014
Audit Fees (a)	\$ 724,345	\$ 747,445
Audit-Related Fees (b)		
Tax Fees (c)	240,986	95,445
All Other Fees (d)		
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 965,331</b>	<b>\$ 842,890</b>

- (a) **Audit Fees** consist of fees and expenses billed for professional services rendered for the audit of the financial statements and services that are normally provided by Ernst & Young LLP in connection with statutory and regulatory filings or engagements, including the audit of the effectiveness of internal control over financial reporting. Audit Fees include fees for professional services rendered in connection with quarterly and annual financial statements and fees and expenses related to the issuance of consents and comfort letters by Ernst & Young LLP related to our filings with the SEC, as well as audit work required under the agreements governing certain of our debt financings.
- (b) **Audit-Related Fees** consist of fees and expenses for assurance and related services that are reasonably related to the performance of the audit or review of our financial statements that are not **Audit Fees**, including fees for the audits of the Trust's acquired hotels.
- (c) **Tax Fees** consist of fees and related expenses billed for professional services for tax compliance, tax advice and tax planning. These services include assistance regarding federal and state tax compliance and tax planning and structuring.
- (d) **All Other Fees** consist of fees and expenses for products and services that are not **Audit Fees**, **Audit-Related Fees** or **Tax Fees**.

**The Board of Trustees recommends that you vote FOR the proposal to ratify the appointment of Ernst & Young LLP as our independent registered public accounting firm for the year ending December 31, 2016.**

**Audit Committee Report**

The Audit Committee consists of three trustees, each of whom has been determined by the Board to meet the NYSE standards for independence and the SEC's requirements for audit committee member independence. The Audit Committee operates under a charter adopted by the Board. The Audit Committee's charter may be found on the **Corporate Governance** page of the Trust's website at [www.chesapeakelodgingtrust.com](http://www.chesapeakelodgingtrust.com).

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The Audit Committee's responsibilities include appointing the Trust's independent registered public accounting firm, pre-approving audit and non-audit services provided by the firm, and assisting the Board in providing oversight to the Trust's financial reporting process. In fulfilling its oversight responsibilities, the Audit Committee meets with the Trust's independent registered public accounting firm, internal audit firm and management to review accounting, auditing, internal controls and financial reporting matters.

It is not the Audit Committee's responsibility to plan or conduct audits or to determine that the Trust's financial statements and disclosures are complete, accurate, and in accordance with U.S. generally accepted accounting principles and applicable laws, rules and regulations. Management is responsible for the Trust's financial statements, including the estimates and judgments on which they are based, as well as the Trust's internal controls, accounting policies, and the financial reporting process. The Audit Committee oversees the Trust's financial reporting process on behalf of the Board, in accordance with its charter. The independent registered public accounting firm is responsible for performing an independent audit of the Trust's consolidated financial statements in accordance with the standards of the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board (United States) and for issuing a report thereon. The Audit Committee's responsibility is to monitor and oversee these processes and necessarily relies on the work and assurances of the Trust's management and of the Trust's independent registered public accounting firm.

In this context, the Audit Committee has met with management and Ernst & Young LLP, the Trust's independent registered public accounting firm, and has reviewed and discussed with them the audited consolidated financial statements. Management represented to the Audit Committee that the Trust's consolidated financial statements were prepared in accordance with U.S. generally accepted accounting principles. The Audit Committee discussed with the independent registered public accounting firm matters required to be discussed by Auditing Standard No. 16 (Communications with Audit Committees), as supplemented or amended, and as adopted by the PCAOB. The Audit Committee discussed with the Trust's independent registered public accounting firm the overall scope and plan for its audit. The Audit Committee met with the independent registered public accounting firm, with and without management present, to discuss the results of their examinations, the Trust's internal controls and the overall quality of the Trust's financial reporting.

The Trust's independent registered public accounting firm also provided to the Audit Committee the written disclosures and the letter required by the applicable rules of the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board, and the Audit Committee discussed with the independent registered public accounting firm that firm's independence. In addition, the Audit Committee has considered whether the independent registered public accounting firm's provision of non-audit services to the Trust and its affiliates is compatible with the firm's independence.

Based on the foregoing and the Audit Committee's discussions with management and the independent registered public accounting firm, the Audit Committee recommended to the Board, and the Board approved, that the audited consolidated financial statements be included in the Trust's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2015 as filed with the SEC.

### THE AUDIT COMMITTEE

Thomas D. Eckert

George F. McKenzie

Jeffrey D. Nuechterlein

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**EXECUTIVE COMPENSATION**

**Compensation Discussion and Analysis**

This section of our proxy statement provides a description and analysis of our executive compensation program, the various components of our executive compensation program, and the compensation-related decisions made for 2015 with respect to our named executive officers, Messrs. Francis and Vicari, D. Rick Adams, our Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer, and Graham J. Wootten, our Senior Vice President, Chief Accounting Officer and Secretary.

*Executive compensation philosophy*

Due to the competitive marketplace for executives with experience in the lodging industry, retaining and properly incentivizing our executive management team, who we believe are capable of leading us in achieving our business objectives, is our primary compensation objective. We seek to achieve this objective in a manner that provides appropriate incentives for our executive officers to achieve our goals and create value for shareholders. The four core elements of our executive compensation philosophy, and the ways these elements are represented in our executive compensation program, are as follows:

1. Total compensation provided to our executive officers should be at levels commensurate with their individual responsibilities and accomplishments while also providing appropriate incentives related to our long-term performance.

Our executive officers have extensive experience in the lodging industry that exceeds or rivals that of the executive teams of our industry peers. Our executive management team served in comparable positions with Highland Hospitality Corporation, or Highland, a NYSE-listed lodging REIT that operated in the upper-upscale segment from its IPO in December 2003 until its sale in July 2007. In addition to their service with Highland, our senior executive officers have held senior management and executive positions at several other publicly traded lodging companies, including Crestline Capital Corporation, Marriott International, Inc., Host Hotels & Resorts, Inc. and Prime Hospitality Corporation.

The combination of the depth and breadth of the experience of our executive officers warrant compensation in amounts that are generally in line with the compensation paid to our lodging industry peers so our executive officers stay motivated with appropriate incentives.

2. We believe that performance-based pay aligns the interests of our executive officers with those of the Trust's shareholders. As a result, we have designed our executive compensation program to provide a significant portion of each executive officer's total compensation through incentives motivating the executives to take actions that enhance shareholder returns. In addition, performance measures based on corporate and individual goals and objectives annually established by our Compensation Committee for the executive officers should reward executive officers for our overall corporate performance and performance within the executive officers' responsibilities to allow the Trust to achieve its near-term business goals and to position the Trust to generate greater long-term shareholder value.

*Annual Incentives.* Our annual cash bonus plans since our inception have been tailored to reward our executive officers for achievement of our most important business objectives for each year. Our 2015 cash bonus plan was designed to focus our executive officers on performance of our core objectives of delivering strong cash flows and revenue growth. Our 2015 cash bonus plan also afforded each executive officer the opportunity to earn a bonus based on achievement of individual performance objectives tied to, among other things, continuing to grow the Trust's hotel portfolio; monitoring and expanding internal programs in support of the Trust's strategic plan; monitoring the Trust's hotel portfolio to ensure that each hotel is efficiently operated and managed; evaluating and executing on renovation and repositioning opportunities with respect to each hotel; maintaining and expanding investor and industry relationships; undertaking leadership initiatives; and other significant qualitative objectives.





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*Long-term Incentives.* The Trust's total shareholder return (TSR) relative to industry peer returns determines the vesting of performance-based restricted share awards granted to our executive officers in 2015, which are 50% of each executive's grant under the long-term equity incentive compensation program approved and implemented by the Compensation Committee.

3. Our executive compensation program further seeks to align the interests of our executives with those of our shareholders by providing that a significant portion of executive officers' compensation is offered in common shares. Through awards of restricted shares that vest over a period of years and in respect of the Trust's performance, the value of the executive officers' total compensation should increase as total returns to shareholders increase.

Our executive compensation program is designed to offer approximately 60% of the executives' total direct compensation opportunity in the form of equity. During 2015, and again for 2016, the Trust granted equity incentives in two forms: time-based restricted shares, vesting ratably over three years, and performance-based restricted shares that will vest, if at all, at the end of three fiscal years based on the Trust's TSR relative to industry peer returns over the same period. The Compensation Committee's policy is to allocate half of the grant-date fair value of such awards to each award type.

We have share ownership guidelines for executive officers that encourage them to attain and maintain specified levels of ownership of our common shares. Likewise, share ownership guidelines for the independent members of our Board also have been approved, to ensure that our Board's interests are fully aligned with those of our shareholders.

4. We believe that the protections provided to our executive officers in their employment agreements should help us achieve our goal of retaining our executive officers.

Our executive officers' employment agreements provide for post-termination pay opportunities designed to provide the executives with economic security. These agreements help ensure that our executives are able to devote their full time and attention to the Trust in the event of a change in control that is in the best interests of shareholders but may result in termination of their employment.

Our executive officers also participate in the welfare and benefit plans that we make available to each of our current employees. In addition, Messrs. Francis, Vicari and Adams are eligible for limited perquisites including an annual physical and medical examination and financial planning services.

***Executive compensation governance and oversight***

Our Compensation Committee, which consists solely of trustees meeting the NYSE standards for independence and the SEC's requirements for compensation committee member independence, discharges the Board's responsibilities relating to the compensation of our trustees and executive officers. In that role, the Compensation Committee also serves as the administrator of our Equity Plan pursuant to which the equity and annual cash incentive awards that form the majority of our executive compensation program are made. Our Compensation Committee administers our executive compensation program in accordance with the following core governance principles:

A significant portion of total compensation opportunity is provided in the form of performance-based incentives, tied to defined performance goals, with both short-term and long-term components, that are established and reviewed annually.

Our Compensation Committee considers our executive officers' compensation as compared to that paid to executives of peer companies in the lodging industry as part of the total mix of information considered in making compensation decisions.



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The Compensation Committee has full discretion to retain an outside compensation consultant to perform services that assist the committee in making its compensation decisions, and the committee assesses the independence of potential consultants before making retention decisions.

Our Compensation Committee is responsive to the concerns of our shareholders.

Our executive employment agreements do not provide for automatic salary increases or guaranteed incentive payments. The Compensation Committee reviews the terms of the employment agreements periodically to determine whether the terms of the employment agreements continue to further our goals.

The cash severance arrangements provided to our executives are double trigger, requiring a termination event following a change in control before any cash severance payments are triggered.

The equity awards made to our executives pursuant to our long-term equity incentive program also are double trigger in that the awards only vest in connection with a change in control or other extraordinary corporate transaction if either the successor entity does not assume or substitute equivalent securities, or the participant experiences an involuntary termination within 12 months following the change in control.

We do not provide excise tax gross-up payments in connection with a future change in control.

The Compensation Committee considers, in making its compensation decisions, whether our compensation arrangements, or components of it, create risks that are reasonably likely to have a material adverse effect on us.

Executive officers are subject to robust share ownership requirements of 5x base salary for our chief executive officer and 3x base salary for each other named executive officer.

All employees and trustees are prohibited from engaging in transactions designed to hedge the Trust's securities, purchasing the Trust's securities on margin, short-selling the Trust's securities, and directly or indirectly pledging the Trust's securities as collateral for a loan.

***Competitive considerations regarding our executive compensation program***

Our compensation program for our named executive officers consists of four key elements:

Cash compensation, in the form of base salaries and annual cash bonuses;

Long-term equity-based incentives, in the form of restricted share awards that vest over time and awards that vest only upon achievement of specified performance objectives over a specified performance period;

Health and welfare benefits and perquisites; and

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Severance arrangements under the executives' employment agreements.

From the feedback received through our shareholder engagement efforts, and given the exceedingly high percentage of favorable votes cast on the Trust's prior say-on-pay votes, including support by holders of nearly 99% of the votes cast at our 2015 Annual Meeting, we believe that the Trust's executive compensation program enjoys strong shareholder support. Nevertheless, because we understand that there is always room for improvement, in 2015, the Compensation Committee again retained Cook & Co. as an independent consultant to advise it on executive compensation matters. Cook & Co. has acted as the Trust's independent executive compensation consultant since 2013. In the course of its engagement, Cook & Co. provided an analysis and assessment of the design and structure of the Trust's executive compensation program. Based on this assessment, Cook & Co. recommended making no changes in 2015 to the overall design and structure of the Trust's executive compensation program. Cook & Co. also measured the Trust's executive compensation program's

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competitiveness compared to the compensation programs offered by the following peer group of 11 hospitality REITs, the businesses and operations of which are most similar to those of the Trust:

Ashford Hospitality Trust	Host Hotels & Resorts *	Ryman Hospitality
DiamondRock Hospitality Company	LaSalle Hotel Properties	Strategic Hotels and Resorts
FelCor Lodging Trust	Pebblebrook Hotel Trust	Sunstone Hotel Investors
Hersha Hospitality	RLJ Lodging Trust	

\* The Compensation Committee reviews the executive compensation practices at Host Hotels & Resorts, Inc., but since they are much larger than the Trust, compensation data from Host Hotels & Resorts was excluded from summary statistics in Cook & Co.'s competitive analysis. Based on Cook & Co.'s competitive analysis, the Compensation Committee approved increases to base salaries for Messrs. Adams and Wootten, whose salaries were below median compared to officers with comparable job titles and responsibilities. The Compensation Committee also increased the target cash bonus percentage for Mr. Francis to bring his target annual cash bonus compensation closer to median.

***Elements of 2015 executive compensation***

***Annual base salary.*** Base salary is designed to compensate each of our named executive officers at a fixed level of annual compensation that serves as a retention tool throughout the executive's career. While their employment agreements specify minimum base salaries for each, the Compensation Committee is permitted to annually review the base salary of each named executive officer to determine whether an increase in each named executive officer's salary is necessary or appropriate. In determining whether to increase base salaries, the Compensation Committee may consider a variety of factors, including each executive's role and responsibility, unique skills, future potential with the Trust, salary levels for similar positions in the lodging industry, internal pay equity and such other factors as the Compensation Committee may determine to be relevant. With respect to salary levels for similar positions in the lodging industry, the Compensation Committee considered the competitive analysis from Cook & Co., the Trust's independent executive compensation consultant, described above. Based upon its review of the factors described above and the competitive analysis received from Cook & Co., the Compensation Committee determined that, for 2015, the base salary of Mr. Adams should be increased to \$475,000, the base salary of Mr. Wootten should be increased to \$325,000, and the base salaries of Messrs. Francis and Vicari remained appropriate.

***Annual cash bonus.*** Annual cash bonuses are designed to provide incentives to our named executive officers at a variable level of compensation based on the overall performance of the Trust as well as each officer's individual performance. In connection with our annual cash bonus plan, our Compensation Committee establishes annual performance criteria that are flexible and that change with the needs of our business.

Under the terms of the cash bonus plan, the Trust's executive officers have the opportunity to earn annual cash bonuses based on the extent to which the executive officers and the Trust achieve the performance metrics established for that year by the Compensation Committee. While the exact mix of these metrics will be determined annually in the discretion of the Compensation Committee, the Compensation Committee expects that the predominant portion of the metrics selected for each year will be chosen from among the list of performance criteria approved by the Trust's shareholders and therefore amounts paid as a result of achievement of such metrics are intended to qualify as performance-based pay for purposes of Section 162(m) of the Internal Revenue Code, although no assurance can be given in this regard.

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The following table depicts each executive's cash bonus opportunity for 2015, measured as a percentage of 2015 base salary, assuming achievement by the executive and the Trust of the respective threshold, target and maximum performance levels under each metric of the cash bonus plan identified below.

*Cash Bonuses Payable Based Upon Achievement of 2015 Bonus Plan Criteria (as Percentage of 2015 Base Salary)*

<b>Executive Officer</b>	<b>Threshold</b>	<b>Target</b>	<b>Maximum</b>
James L. Francis	50%	125%	250%
Douglas W. Vicari	35%	75%	150%
D. Rick Adams	35%	75%	150%
Graham J. Wootten	30%	65%	130%

The Compensation Committee determined that 2015 annual cash bonuses should be based on two company-wide metrics and one individual-based metric: (1) adjusted funds from operations, or AFFO, per share, (2) the growth of room revenue per available room, or RevPAR, and (3) individual performance objectives. At the beginning of the year, the Compensation Committee established goals for threshold, target and maximum levels of performance for each metric. After the end of the year, the Compensation Committee evaluated the Trust's and each executive's performance against the goals to determine earned cash bonus amounts. Amounts earned were interpolated in cases where performance was between the threshold and target, or target and maximum, levels.

*AFFO Per Share (Weight: 60%):* The Trust believes that AFFO (determined by adjusting the Trust's FFO as calculated in accordance with standards established by the National Association of Real Estate Investment Trusts (NAREIT), to add back hotel acquisition costs and non-cash amortization of certain non-cash items, including intangible assets and unfavorable contract liabilities), represents the best financial metric by which to evaluate the Trust's core operating results. Accordingly, the Compensation Committee determined that 60% of the overall cash bonus for each executive officer would be based upon the level of AFFO per share generated by the Trust during 2015. The Compensation Committee set the threshold, target and maximum levels of AFFO per share at \$2.08, \$2.25 (the mid-point of the AFFO per share guidance issued by the Trust in January 2015) and \$2.42, respectively, subject in each case to adjustment in the discretion of the Compensation Committee to give effect to the impact of any significant events or transactions that were not pending at the time the 2015 cash bonus plan was adopted. For 2015, the Compensation Committee evaluated significant events and transactions including, but not limited to, the Trust's 2015 acquisition activity, its common equity offering and its debt financing activities. The Compensation Committee discussed these items and determined that it was appropriate for this purpose to reduce the Trust's reported AFFO per share of \$2.21 by the net impact of these significant events and transactions, approving for purposes of this element of the 2015 cash bonus plan AFFO per share of \$2.17, between the threshold and target levels of performance for this metric.

*RevPAR Growth Compared to Industry-wide Performance (Weight: 20%):* The Compensation Committee believes that a significant indicator of the Trust's 2015 performance will be the growth of RevPAR generated by the Trust's hotels compared to that generated by hotels operating in the respective segments of the U.S. lodging industry in which the Trust's hotels are positioned. Accordingly, the Compensation Committee determined that 20% of the overall 2015 cash bonus for each executive officer would be based upon a comparison of 2015 RevPAR growth achieved at the Trust's hotels compared against the weighted-average (calculated on the basis of the number of rooms the Trust has in each segment) 2015 RevPAR growth reported by STR, Inc. (STR) for the respective segments as a whole, which was 4.8% for 2015. For purposes of the 2015 cash bonus plan, the Compensation Committee determined that threshold performance for this metric would be achieved if the Trust's 2015 RevPAR growth were to achieve the STR weighted average, less 1%; target performance would be achieved if the Trust's 2015 RevPAR growth were to achieve the STR weighted average; and maximum performance would be achieved if the Trust's 2015 RevPAR growth were to achieve the STR weighted average, plus 1%. The Trust's 2015 RevPAR growth as determined for this purpose was 5.2%, between the target and maximum performance levels for this metric.

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*Individual Performance Goals (Weight: 20%).* In addition to company-wide performance metrics of AFFO per share and RevPAR growth, the Compensation Committee believes that individual performance goals relative to pre-determined objectives should play a role in the cash bonus payable to each executive officer. Accordingly, the Compensation Committee determined that 20% of the overall cash bonus for each executive officer in 2015 would be based upon each executive officer's achievement of such individual performance goals. The Compensation Committee approved performance goals for each of the Trust's executive officers, with the Compensation Committee retaining full discretion in respect of all amounts awarded under this portion of the 2015 cash bonus plan. Individual performance goals included, where appropriate, operational goals for the Trust and the respective functions over which each executive has operational or overall responsibility; monitoring and expanding internal programs in support of the Trust's strategic plan; monitoring the Trust's hotel portfolio to ensure that each hotel is efficiently operated and managed; evaluating and executing on renovation and repositioning opportunities with respect to each hotel; maintaining and expanding investor and industry relationships; undertaking leadership initiatives; and other significant qualitative objectives. No executive officer was guaranteed an award and, if performance was unsatisfactory, no bonus would be paid under the individual performance component of the 2015 cash bonus plan. The Compensation Committee did not rely on any one particular objective or formula in determining appropriate 2015 cash bonus levels, but rather on what the Compensation Committee considered to be value-added quantitative and qualitative goals in furtherance of our compensation principles. The Compensation Committee considered the following accomplishments by the Trust and the named executive officers in 2015 in reaching its decision on the amounts to be paid pursuant to the individual bonus criteria of the 2015 cash bonus plan:

We successfully completed a follow-on equity offering of common shares resulting in net proceeds of approximately \$153.7 million at the highest price of any offering the Trust had completed to date;

We amended our revolving credit facility in March 2015 to, among other things, take advantage of the attractive interest rate environment to reduce borrowing costs by 20 to 45 basis points depending on our consolidated leverage level, increase the maximum borrowing capacity from \$250 million to \$300 million with an option to increase to \$450 million, procure more favorable financial covenants and convert from a secured to an unsecured revolving credit facility;

We acquired the 393-room Royal Palm South Beach Miami, a Tribute Portfolio Resort, the largest single-asset acquisition in our history and our first hotel in the Miami market, a top lodging market with one of the highest RevPAR in the United States;

We acquired the 182-room Ace Hotel and Theater Downtown Los Angeles, our second acquisition in the Downtown Los Angeles market and one that we believe is well positioned for future growth;

We finished 2015 with a strong balance sheet and industry leading credit statistics, including a fixed charge coverage ratio of 3.04x, a leverage ratio of 32.6% and a weighted-average interest rate of 3.87%;

We significantly enhanced the quality of our hotel portfolio during 2015. Our work during 2015 consisted of guestroom renovations at the Hyatt Regency Boston, the Le Meridien San Francisco and the Hyatt Fisherman's Wharf;

We achieved pro forma RevPAR growth of 5.7% for our hotel portfolio and significantly increased hotel profitability and margins during 2015 as a result of our asset management efforts. This pro forma RevPAR growth was achieved despite three guestroom renovations occurring within the hotel portfolio during 2015 which negatively impacted our operating results; and

Our investor relations efforts, including one-on-one meetings as well as numerous property tours for investors, analysts and lenders, continued throughout 2015.

Based on the foregoing, the Compensation Committee awarded each of the named executive officers the maximum payable amount under the individual performance criteria of the 2015 cash bonus plan.





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**Equity awards.** The Compensation Committee has implemented a long-term equity incentive compensation program designed with the dual objectives of fostering strong alignment between the Trust's executive officers and shareholders and providing material incentives to the Trust's executive officers to take actions to enhance the Trust's TSR. The program is comprised of annual awards of both time-based restricted shares vesting ratably over a multi-year period and performance-based restricted shares vesting, if at all, based on the Trust's TSR relative to those generated by the SNL US REIT Hotel Index prepared by SNL Financial LC (the Index). The Trust's long-term equity incentive compensation program has the following features:

50% of the grant-date fair value of each executive's annual equity grant will be provided in the form of performance-based restricted share awards;

the performance-based restricted shares will vest, if at all, based on the Trust's relative TSR over a three-year performance period;

the maximum value that may be earned under the performance-based restricted shares granted in each year is capped at 1.75 times the starting share price multiplied by the maximum number of shares granted to each executive; and

in order for any performance-based restricted shares to vest, the Trust's absolute TSR must be positive over the entire performance period.

Accordingly, in 2015, 50% of the grant-date fair value of each executive's equity grant was provided in the form of performance-based restricted share awards. Further detail regarding the awards granted under the program is set forth below under Grants of Plan-Based Awards and Narrative Disclosure to Summary Compensation Table and Grants of Plan-Based Awards Table.

**Health and welfare benefits and perquisites.** All eligible employees are able to participate in our 401(k) plan. We provide this plan to help our employees save some amount of their cash compensation for retirement in a tax efficient manner. Under the 401(k) plan, employees are eligible to defer a portion of their eligible compensation, and we make a matching contribution up to 4% of eligible compensation. We currently do not provide an option for our employees to invest in our common shares through the 401(k) plan.

We provide a competitive benefits package to all full-time employees, which includes health and welfare benefits, such as medical, dental, disability insurance and life insurance benefits. The plans under which these benefits are offered do not discriminate in scope, terms or operation in favor of officers and trustees and are available to all full-time employees. Messrs. Francis, Vicari and Adams also receive certain perquisites, as described more fully under Employment Agreements.

**Post-termination pay.** As described more fully under Employment Agreements, we have entered into employment contracts with each of our named executive officers that provide the officers with compensation if they are terminated without cause, they leave the Trust with good reason or their employment terminates in certain circumstances following a change in control. We believe these common protections promote our ability to attract and retain management and assure us that our executive officers will continue to be dedicated and available to provide objective advice and counsel notwithstanding the possibility, threat or occurrence of a change in their circumstances or in the control of the Trust.

### ***Tax considerations***

Section 162(m) of the Internal Revenue Code may limit the deductibility on our tax return of compensation over \$1 million to any of our named executive officers unless, in general, the compensation is paid pursuant to a plan which is performance-related, non-discretionary and has been approved by our shareholders, such as our Equity Plan. Because we are a REIT that generally does not pay U.S. federal income taxes, the practical effects if Section 162(m) were determined to be applicable to the compensation paid to our named executive officers would be increases in our taxable income and corresponding increases in amounts we would be required to

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distribute to comply with the REIT qualification requirements and eliminate our U.S. federal income tax liability at the REIT level. Our Compensation Committee's policies and practices are not directly guided by considerations relating to Section 162(m), and we may award non-deductible compensation in certain circumstances as we deem appropriate. The base salaries, certain amounts paid to our named executive officers under our annual cash bonus plan and amounts associated with grants of time-based restricted shares may not qualify under these criteria, and accordingly some compensation paid to the named executive officers each year may not be deductible under Section 162(m).

**Executive officer share ownership guidelines**

We have adopted share ownership guidelines for our executive officers. We believe that encouraging our executive officers to attain and maintain a meaningful ownership interest in the Trust relative to his or her annual base salary is in the best interest of the Trust and its shareholders and is likely to further encourage each executive officer to act in a manner that creates value for our shareholders.

Pursuant to the guidelines, the Board recommends that each of our existing executive officers should own shares having an aggregate value equal to or greater than the multiple of his base salary as shown in the following table.

<b>Officer</b>	<b>Multiple of Annual Base Salary</b>
James L. Francis, <i>President and Chief Executive Officer</i>	5x
Douglas W. Vicari, <i>Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer</i>	3x
D. Rick Adams <i>Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer</i>	3x
Graham J. Wootten <i>Senior Vice President, Chief Accounting Officer and Secretary</i>	3x

Our executive officers' ownership of common shares, restricted shares subject to time-based vesting and other equity securities we may grant in the future all will count toward the recommended level of share ownership, but awards of restricted shares subject to performance-based vesting that have not vested will not count toward the recommended level of share ownership until the shares vest. Any newly named executive officer will have five years from the time of joining the Trust to attain the recommended level of share ownership. As of December 31, 2015, all of our named executive officers met the recommended level of share ownership and are expected to maintain such ownership positions in the future. Because the Board determined that each named executive officer has met the recommended level of share ownership as of December 31, 2015, declines in the market value of those shares following the Board's determination will not change that determination.

**Hedging, short-selling and pledging policy**

As part of the Trust's continuing efforts to improve and strengthen its corporate governance efforts and align them with best practices, the Trust adopted a hedging, short-selling and pledging policy that prohibits the Trust's employees and trustees from: (i) purchasing financial instruments that are designed to hedge the Trust's securities or offset any fluctuations in the market value of the Trust's securities, (ii) purchasing the Trust's shares on margin and (iii) selling any securities of the Trust short. The policy also prohibits employees and trustees from directly or indirectly pledging the Trust's securities as collateral for a loan. These prohibitions apply whether or not such securities were acquired through the Trust's equity compensation programs.

**Table of Contents****Report of the Compensation Committee**

The Compensation Committee of the Board of Trustees of Chesapeake Lodging Trust has reviewed and discussed with management the foregoing Compensation Discussion and Analysis. Based on this review and discussion, the Compensation Committee recommended to the Board of Trustees that the Compensation Discussion and Analysis be included in this proxy statement and incorporated by reference into the Trust's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2015. This report is provided by the following independent trustees, who comprise the Compensation Committee:

## THE COMPENSATION COMMITTEE

John W. Hill

Thomas A. Natelli

Thomas D. Eckert

**Summary Compensation Table**

The following table sets forth the annual base salary and other compensation paid to our named executive officers in 2015, 2014 and 2013.

Name and Principal Position	Year	Salary	Bonus <sup>(1)</sup>	Share Awards <sup>(2)</sup>	Non-Equity Incentive Plan Compensation <sup>(3)</sup>	All Other Compensation <sup>(4)</sup>	Total
James L. Francis <i>President and Chief Executive Officer</i>	2015	\$ 750,000	\$ 375,000	\$ 2,950,000	\$ 656,998	\$ 25,696	\$ 4,757,694
	2014	\$ 750,000	\$ 300,000	\$ 2,950,000	\$ 891,538	\$ 25,496	\$ 4,917,034
<i>Executive Officer</i>	2013	\$ 700,000	\$ 280,000	\$ 4,437,393	\$ 607,685	\$ 25,296	\$ 6,050,374
Douglas W. Vicari <i>Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer</i>	2015	\$ 475,000	\$ 142,500	\$ 1,200,000	\$ 256,570	\$ 10,696	\$ 2,084,766
	2014	\$ 475,000	\$ 142,500	\$ 1,200,000	\$ 423,481	\$ 10,496	\$ 2,251,477
<i>Chief Financial Officer</i>	2013	\$ 475,000	\$ 142,500	\$ 1,758,344	\$ 307,323	\$ 10,296	\$ 2,693,463
D. Rick Adams <i>Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer</i>	2015	\$ 475,000	\$ 142,500	\$ 1,200,000	\$ 256,570	\$ 10,696	\$ 2,084,766
	2014	\$ 400,000	\$ 120,000	\$ 1,200,000	\$ 356,615	\$ 10,496	\$ 2,087,111
<i>Chief Operating Officer</i>	2013	\$ 400,000	\$ 100,000	\$ 1,758,344	\$ 224,349	\$ 10,296	\$ 2,492,989
Graham J. Wootten <i>Senior Vice President, Chief Accounting Officer and Secretary</i>	2015	\$ 325,000	\$ 84,500	\$ 625,000	\$ 151,827	\$ 10,696	\$ 1,197,023
	2014	\$ 300,000	\$ 78,000	\$ 625,000	\$ 231,800	\$ 10,496	\$ 1,245,296
	2013	\$ 252,000	\$ 42,840	\$ 666,767	\$ 103,713	\$ 10,296	\$ 1,075,616

- (1) Represents cash bonuses awarded by the Compensation Committee to Messrs. Francis, Vicari, Adams and Wootten pursuant to our cash bonus plans for each year in recognition of the achievement by each of his individually designed management business objectives.
- (2) Represents the value of time-based and performance-based restricted share awards, assuming that the maximum level of performance is achieved for such performance-based restricted share awards. The aggregate grant date fair value of the performance-based restricted share awards is computed in accordance with Accounting Standards Codification 718, Compensation - Stock Compensation (ASC 718) based on the assumptions set forth in note 10 to the Trust's 2015 audited financial statements.
- (3)

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Represents cash incentive compensation amounts earned by Messrs. Francis, Vicari, Adams and Wootten pursuant to our cash bonus plans for each year. For information on how the amounts were determined, see Compensation Discussion and Analysis Elements of 2015 executive compensation Annual cash bonus and Grants of Plan-Based Awards.

- (4) Amounts reported in this column include (i) \$15,000 paid in 2015 to Mr. Francis pursuant to his employment agreement for reimbursement of certain financial planning services; (ii) matching contributions to the 401(k) accounts of Messrs. Francis, Vicari, Adams and Wootten in 2015 of \$10,600 each, respectively; and (iii) life insurance premiums paid by the Trust.

**Table of Contents****Grants of Plan-Based Awards**

The following table sets forth the bonuses payable under our 2015 cash bonus plan and the awards of restricted shares granted to each of our named executive officers in 2015 under our Equity Plan.

Name	Grant Date	Estimated Future Payouts Under Non-Equity Incentive Plan Awards <sup>(1)</sup>			Estimated Future Payouts Under Equity Incentive Plan Awards <sup>(5)</sup>			All Other Awards: Number of Shares of Stock or Units <sup>(7)</sup>	Grant-Date Fair Value of Stock and Option Awards <sup>(8)</sup>
		Threshold <sup>(2)</sup>	Target <sup>(3)</sup>	Maximum <sup>(4)</sup>	Threshold	Target	Maximum <sup>(6)</sup>		
James L. Francis	1/27/2015	\$ 75,000	\$ 750,000	\$ 1,500,000				38,272	\$ 1,475,000
	1/27/2015								
	1/27/2015				21,521	43,041	86,082		
Douglas W. Vicari	1/27/2015	\$ 33,250	\$ 285,000	\$ 570,000				15,568	\$ 600,000
	1/27/2015								
	1/27/2015				8,754	17,508	35,016		
D. Rick Adams	1/27/2015	\$ 33,250	\$ 285,000	\$ 570,000				15,568	\$ 600,000
	1/27/2015								
	1/27/2015				8,754	17,508	35,016		
Graham J. Wootten	1/27/2015	\$ 19,500	\$ 169,000	\$ 338,000				8,108	\$ 312,500
	1/27/2015								
	1/27/2015				4,560	9,119	18,238		

- (1) Represents amounts payable under our 2015 cash bonus plan based upon achievement of the AFFO per share metric and the RevPAR growth metric. For actual amounts paid to each named executive officer under our 2015 cash bonus plan, see Compensation Discussion and Analysis Elements of 2015 executive compensation Annual cash bonus and Summary Compensation Table.
- (2) Represents amounts payable under our 2015 cash bonus plan if the threshold level had been achieved for only the RevPAR growth metric, which comprises 20% of the overall amount that can be awarded under the plan.
- (3) Represents amounts payable under our 2015 cash bonus plan if the target level had been achieved for both the AFFO per share metric and the RevPAR growth metric.
- (4) Represents amounts payable under our 2015 cash bonus plan if the maximum level had been achieved for both the AFFO per share metric and the RevPAR growth metric.
- (5) Represents performance-based restricted share awards that will vest upon our achievement of specified performance metrics. See Narrative Disclosure to Summary Compensation Table and Grants of Plan-Based Awards Table 2015 Performance-based Restricted Shares.
- (6) The maximum amount of performance-based restricted share awards eligible to vest on December 31, 2017 is further limited in accordance with the terms set forth below under Narrative Disclosure to Summary Compensation Table and Grants of Plan-Based Awards Table 2015 Performance-based Restricted Shares. The maximum value that may be earned under the 2015 performance-based restricted share grant is 1.75 times the starting share price multiplied by the maximum number of shares granted to each executive.
- (7) Represents time-based restricted share awards, each of which will vest as to one third of the award per year on each of the first three anniversaries of the grant date.
- (8) Represents the estimated grant-date fair value of the restricted share awards.

**Narrative Disclosure to Summary Compensation Table and Grants of Plan-Based Awards Table****Overview of the Long-Term Equity Incentive Plan**

As described above, the Trust's long-term equity incentive compensation program is comprised of annual awards of both time-based restricted shares vesting ratably over a multi-year period and performance-based restricted shares vesting, if at all, based on the Trust's TSR relative to those generated by the Index. All of the awards are granted pursuant to the Trust's Equity Plan. In 2015, 50% of the grant-date fair value of each



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executive s equity grant was provided in the form of performance-based restricted share awards. The following summarizes the terms of each component of the long-term equity incentive compensation program and the awards granted under the program in 2015.

**2015 Time-based Restricted Shares**

The time-based restricted shares granted in January 2015 vest in equal annual installments on each of the first three anniversaries of the grant date. Vesting accelerates upon the occurrence of any of the following events (each, an Accelerated Vesting Event ): (i) termination due to the participant s death or disability; (ii) termination without cause not in connection with a change in control; or (iii) a change in control (i.e., Corporate Transaction ), if either the successor entity does not assume or substitute equivalent securities, or the participant experiences an Involuntary Termination (i.e., termination by the Trust without Cause or by participant with Good Reason as defined in employment agreements) within 12 months following the change in control.

**2015 Performance-based Restricted Shares**

The performance-based restricted shares granted in January 2015 vest based on the Trust s TSR relative to the total return of the Index over a three-year performance period ending December 31, 2017 (the 2015-2017 Performance Period ). The actual number of performance-based restricted shares that vest at the end of the 2015-2017 Performance Period will be determined by comparing the Trust s TSR to the total return of the Index over the 2015-2017 Performance Period. For this purpose, the Trust s TSR shall be calculated as follows:

$$\text{TSR} = \frac{(\text{December 31, 2017 Share Price} * \text{Adjusted Share Count}) - \text{December 31, 2014 Share Price}}{\text{December 31, 2014 Share Price}}$$

The term Adjusted Share Count means one share plus the number of shares received in connection with the assumed reinvestment of all dividends paid during the period at the closing price of the Trust s common shares on the ex-dividend date for each such dividend.

The term Share Price means, as of a particular date, the arithmetic mean of the closing share price as reported by the NYSE over the ten (10) consecutive trading days prior to, and including, such date (or, if such date is not a trading day, the most recent trading day immediately preceding such date). The total return generated by the Index will be calculated using a ten (10) consecutive trading day averaging period similar to the Trust s TSR calculation.

If the Trust s TSR is positive for the 2015-2017 Performance Period, the performance-based restricted shares will vest only as follows, with linear interpolation for performance between 67% and 100%, and between 100% and 133% of the Index:

Trust TSR as % of	
SNL US REIT Hotel Index Total Return	Payout (% of Maximum)
<67%	0%
67%	25%
100%	50%
≥133%	100%

If the Trust s TSR is negative for the 2015-2017 Performance Period, no performance-based restricted shares will vest. If the Trust s TSR is positive for the 2015-2017 Performance Period and the total return produced by the Index is negative, 100% of the performance-based restricted shares subject to vesting will vest. The maximum value that may be earned under the 2015 performance-based restricted share grant is 1.75 times the starting share price multiplied by the maximum number of shares granted to each executive. Vesting accelerates at the maximum level upon the occurrence of an Accelerated Vesting Event.

**2014 Time-based Restricted Shares**

The time-based restricted shares granted in January 2014 vest in equal annual installments on each of the first three anniversaries of the grant date. Vesting accelerates upon the occurrence of an Accelerated Vesting Event.





**Table of Contents****2014 Performance-based Restricted Shares**

The performance-based restricted shares granted in January 2014 vest based on the Trust's TSR relative to the total return of the Index over a three-year performance period ending December 31, 2016 (the 2014-2016 Performance Period). The actual number of performance-based restricted shares that vest at the end of the 2014-2016 Performance Period will be determined by comparing the Trust's TSR to the total return of the Index over the 2014-2016 Performance Period. For this purpose, the Trust's TSR shall be calculated as follows:

$$\text{TSR} = \frac{(\text{December 31, 2016 Share Price} * \text{Adjusted Share Count})}{\text{December 31, 2013 Share Price}}$$

Please see 2015 Performance-based Restricted Shares for definitions of the terms Adjusted Share Count and Share Price.

If the Trust's TSR is positive for the 2014-2016 Performance Period, the performance-based restricted shares will vest only as follows, with linear interpolation for performance between 67% and 100%, and between 100% and 133% of the Index:

Trust TSR as % of	
SNL US REIT Hotel Index Total Return	Payout (% of Maximum)
<67%	0%
67%	25%
100%	50%
≥133%	100%

If the Trust's TSR is negative for the 2014-2016 Performance Period, no performance-based restricted shares will vest. If the Trust's TSR is positive for the 2014-2016 Performance Period and the total return produced by the Index is negative, 100% of the performance-based restricted shares subject to vesting will vest. The maximum value that may be earned under the 2014 performance-based restricted share grant is 1.75 times the starting share price multiplied by the maximum number of shares granted to each executive. Vesting accelerates at the maximum level upon the occurrence of an Accelerated Vesting Event.

**2013 Time-based Restricted Shares**

Time-based restricted shares granted prior to 2014 vest in equal annual installments on each of the first four anniversaries of the grant date. Vesting accelerates upon the occurrence of an Accelerated Vesting Event.

**2013 Performance-based Restricted Shares**

Performance-based restricted shares granted prior to 2014 vest based on the Trust's TSR relative to the total return of the Index. For the 2013 performance-based awards, one quarter of the shares are eligible to vest in each year from 2013 through 2016, based on the Trust's annual TSR for the year relative to the total return of the Index. At the end of the four-year period, any shares not earned in each prior year may still be earned based on the Trust's cumulative TSR relative to the total return of the Index for the full four-year period. The payout schedule for both annual and cumulative measurement is as follows, with linear interpolation for performance between 67% and 100%, and between 100% and 133% of the Index:

Trust TSR as % of	
SNL US REIT Hotel Index Total Return	Payout (% of Maximum)
<67%	0%
67%	25%
100%	50%
≥133%	100%



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If the total return of the Index and the Trust's TSR are both negative, payout is 100% of the award if the Trust's TSR exceeds 133% of the Index's total return, but 0% payout if the Trust's TSR is less than 133% of the Index's total return. Vesting accelerates at the maximum level upon the occurrence of an Accelerated Vesting Event.

**Outstanding Equity Awards at Fiscal Year End**

The following table sets forth information with respect to outstanding equity awards held by our named executive officers as of December 31, 2015. Market values have been determined based on the closing price of our common shares on December 31, 2015 of \$25.16 per share.

*Outstanding Equity Awards at Fiscal Year End*

Name		Number of Common Shares That Have Not Vested	Market Value of Shares That Have Not Vested	Equity Incentive Plan Awards: Number of Unearned Shares That Have Not Vested	Equity Incentive Plan Awards: Market or Payout Value of Unearned Shares That Have Not Vested	
James L. Francis	(1)	65,000	\$ 1,635,400			
	(2)	41,702	\$ 1,049,222			
	(3)	38,272	\$ 962,924			
				(4)	112,378	\$ 2,827,430
				(5)	164,224	\$ 4,131,876
				(6)	86,082	\$ 2,165,823
Douglas W. Vicari	(1)	25,575	\$ 643,467			
	(2)	16,963	\$ 426,789			
	(3)	15,568	\$ 391,691			
				(4)	43,266	\$ 1,088,573
				(5)	66,803	\$ 1,680,763
				(6)	35,016	\$ 881,003
D. Rick Adams	(1)	25,575	\$ 643,467			
	(2)	16,963	\$ 426,789			
	(3)	15,568	\$ 391,691			
				(4)	43,266	\$ 1,088,573
				(5)	66,803	\$ 1,680,763
				(6)	35,016	\$ 881,003
Graham J. Wootten	(1)	9,700	\$ 244,052			
	(2)	8,835	\$ 222,289			
	(3)	8,108	\$ 203,997			
				(4)	16,420	\$ 413,127
				(5)	34,793	\$ 875,392
				(6)	18,238	\$ 458,868

- (1) Amounts shown represent the number of time-based restricted shares granted to each executive officer prior to 2014 that had not vested as of December 31, 2015. For awards granted prior to 2014, such awards vest ratably on each of the first four anniversaries of the grant date in accordance with the terms set forth above under Narrative Disclosure to Summary Compensation Table and Grants of Plan-Based Awards Table 2013 Time-based Restricted Shares. Subsequent to December 31, 2015, the following time-based restricted shares vested: Mr. Francis: 20,000 shares; Messrs. Vicari and Adams: 8,250 shares; and Mr. Wootten: 3,125 shares. The remaining time-based restricted shares vest as follows: Mr. Francis: 25,000 shares in December 2016 and 20,000 shares in January 2017; Messrs. Vicari and Adams: 9,075 shares in December 2016 and 8,250 shares in January 2017; and Mr. Wootten: 3,450 shares in December 2016 and 3,125 shares in January 2017.

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- (2) Amounts shown represent the number of time-based restricted shares granted to each executive officer in January 2014 that had not vested as of December 31, 2015. Awards granted in January 2014 vest ratably on each of the first three anniversaries of the grant date in accordance with the terms set forth above under Narrative Disclosure to Summary Compensation Table and Grants of Plan-Based Awards Table 2014 Time-based Restricted Shares. Subsequent to December 31, 2015, the following time-based restricted shares vested: Mr. Francis: 20,851 shares; Messrs. Vicari and Adams: 8,482 shares; and Mr. Wootten: 4,418 shares. The remaining time-based restricted shares vest in January 2017 as follows: Mr. Francis: 20,851 shares; Messrs. Vicari and Adams: 8,481; and Mr. Wootten: 4,417.
- (3) Amounts shown represent the number of time-based restricted shares granted to each executive officer in January 2015 that had not vested as of December 31, 2015. Awards granted in January 2015 vest ratably on each of the first three anniversaries of the grant date in accordance with the terms set forth above under Narrative Disclosure to Summary Compensation Table and Grants of Plan-Based Awards Table 2015 Time-based Restricted Shares. Subsequent to December 31, 2015, the following time-based restricted shares vested: Mr. Francis: 12,757 shares; Messrs. Vicari and Adams: 5,189 shares; and Mr. Wootten 2,703 shares. The remaining time-based restricted shares vest as follows: Mr. Francis: 12,757 shares in January 2017 and 12,758 shares in January 2018; Messrs. Vicari and Adams: 5,189 shares in January 2017 and 5,190 shares in January 2018; and Mr. Wootten: 2,703 shares in January 2017 and 2,702 shares in January 2018.
- (4) Amounts shown represent the number of performance-based restricted shares granted to each executive officer prior to 2014 that had not vested as of December 31, 2015, assuming in each case achievement of the maximum level of performance. A portion of such performance-based restricted shares granted to each executive officer were eligible for vesting at December 31, 2015 and the remainder will be eligible for vesting at December 31, 2016, in accordance with the terms set forth above under Narrative Disclosure to Summary Compensation Table and Grants of Plan-Based Awards Table 2013 Performance-based Restricted Shares. Assuming the Trust achieves the maximum levels of performance in 2016, the remainder of the performance-based restricted shares shall vest at December 31, 2016 as follows: Mr. Francis: 45,000 shares; Messrs. Vicari and Adams: 17,325 shares; and Mr. Wootten: 6,575 shares. In addition, if the Trust achieves the maximum cumulative TSR relative to the Index for the full four-year period ending December 31, 2016, the shares that did not vest at December 31, 2013 and December 31, 2015 shall vest at December 31, 2016 as follows: Mr. Francis: 67,378 shares; Messrs. Vicari and Adams: 25,941 shares; and Mr. Wootten: 9,845 shares.
- (5) Amounts shown represent the number of performance-based restricted shares granted to each executive officer in January 2014 that had not vested as of December 31, 2015, assuming achievement of the maximum level of performance. These shares will be eligible for vesting at December 31, 2016, in accordance with the terms set forth above under Narrative Disclosure to Summary Compensation Table and Grants of Plan-Based Awards Table 2014 Performance-based Restricted Shares.
- (6) Amounts shown represent the number of performance-based restricted shares granted to each executive officer in January 2015 that had not vested as of December 31, 2015, assuming achievement of the maximum level of performance. These shares will be eligible for vesting at December 31, 2017, in accordance with the terms set forth above under Narrative Disclosure to Summary Compensation Table and Grants of Plan-Based Awards Table 2015 Performance-based Restricted Shares.

**Table of Contents****Option Exercises and Shares Vested**

The Trust has not granted any option awards to its named executive officers. Time-based and performance-based restricted share awards were granted to the named executive officers as described above under Narrative Disclosure to Summary Compensation Table and Grants of Plan-Based Awards Table. The table below sets forth information regarding the vesting of such restricted shares in 2015.

Name	Restricted Share Awards	
	Number of Shares Acquired on Vesting	Value Realized on Vesting
James L. Francis	65,851	\$ 2,193,331
Douglas W. Vicari	25,807	\$ 868,892
D. Rick Adams	25,807	\$ 868,892
Graham J. Wootten	10,993	\$ 375,863

**Equity Plan Information**

We have adopted an Equity Plan, which provides for the issuance of equity-based awards, including share options, share appreciation rights (SARs), restricted shares, share units, unrestricted shares and other awards based on our common shares that may be granted by us to our trustees and employees and to our advisors and consultants who are providing services to us as of the grant date. The following table summarizes information, as of December 31, 2015, relating to the Equity Plan pursuant to which awards of options, restricted shares, restricted units or other rights to acquire shares may be granted from time to time.

Plan Category	Number of Securities to be Issued upon Exercise of Outstanding Options, Warrants and Rights <sup>(1)</sup>	Weighted-average Exercise Price of Outstanding Options, Warrants and Rights	Number of Securities Remaining Available for Future Issuance Under Equity Compensation Plans
Equity compensation plans approved by security holders	334,965		1,268,961
Equity compensation plans not approved by security holders			
<b>Total</b>	<b>334,965</b>		<b>1,268,961</b>

- (1) The amount shown represents performance-based restricted shares which will vest, if at all, based on the Trust's TSR, measured at performance levels and over performance periods determined by the Compensation Committee relative to the total return of the SNL US REIT Hotel Index. The amount shown includes the maximum number of performance-based restricted shares payable if the maximum level of relative TSR is achieved by the Trust over each remaining performance period for unvested performance-based restricted share awards outstanding at December 31, 2015.

**Employment Agreements**

On January 27, 2015, in connection with its regular review of the Trust's executive compensation program, the Compensation Committee approved and the Trust entered into new employment agreements with Messrs. Francis, Vicari, Adams and Wootten, in each case replacing the agreements previously delivered with each such officer in connection with his employment following the Trust's initial public offering in 2010. The terms of the new employment agreements generally remain consistent with the terms established in 2010, but have been updated to give effect to the passage of time, the development of the Trust's executive compensation program and Mr. Adams' promotion.

The new agreements provide for an annual minimum base salary established at 2015 levels, payable in approximately equal semi-monthly installments. The new agreements for Messrs. Francis, Vicari and Adams



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provide for a term ending January 27, 2018, and Mr. Wootten's agreement provides for a term ending January 27, 2017, with each such term extending automatically for an additional year on each anniversary of the date of the agreement unless either party gives 90 days' prior notice of non-renewal.

Each of these executives is entitled to receive benefits under the agreements if (1) we terminate the executive's employment without cause, or (2) if there is a change in control during the term of the agreements and the executive resigns for good reason or is terminated without cause within 12 months following such change in control. Under these scenarios, each of the executives is entitled to receive (1) any accrued but unpaid salary and bonuses under the Trust's then-current annual cash bonus plan, (2) reimbursement for any outstanding reasonable business expense, (3) vesting as of the executive's last day of employment of any unvested options or restricted shares previously granted to the executive, (4) continued life and health insurance as described below, and (5) a severance payment calculated as described below. The term "cause" includes termination due to fraud, misappropriation or embezzlement, the conviction of any felony, breach of fiduciary duties, and breach of any material term of the employment agreement. The term "good reason" includes termination due to a substantial diminution of duties, relocation beyond fifty (50) miles from the Trust's address, and a substantial reduction in base salary and other compensation other than as a result of the Trust's failure to achieve performance targets.

If we terminate the executive without cause the severance payment is equal to two times in the case of Messrs. Francis, Vicari and Adams, or one times in the case of Mr. Wootten, his then current salary plus two times in the case of Messrs. Francis, Vicari and Adams, or one times in the case of Mr. Wootten, the greater of (1) the average of all bonuses paid to them during the preceding 36 months and (2) the most recent bonus paid to the executive. In addition, the executive is eligible to receive payment of life and health insurance coverage for a period of 24 months for Messrs. Francis, Vicari and Adams, and 12 months for Mr. Wootten, following such executive's termination of employment.

If there is a change in control during the term of the agreements and within 12 months following a change in control, we terminate the executive without cause or he resigns for good reason, the severance payment is equal to three times in the case of Messrs. Francis, Vicari and Adams, or two times in the case of Mr. Wootten, his then current salary plus three times in the case of Messrs. Francis, Vicari and Adams, or two times in the case of Mr. Wootten, the greater of (1) the average of all bonuses paid to the executive during the preceding 36 months and (2) the most recent bonus paid to the executive. In addition, in the event of a termination or resignation following a change in control as described above, the executive will be eligible to receive payment of life and health insurance coverage for a period of 36 months for Messrs. Francis, Vicari and Adams, and 24 months for Mr. Wootten, following termination of employment. None of the agreements requires that the Trust make any "gross up" payments to compensate the executive for additional taxes, if any, imposed under Section 4999 of the Internal Revenue Code for receipt of excess parachute payments in the event of a termination or resignation following a change in control; however, each agreement provides that if (in the determination of a nationally recognized accounting firm engaged by the Trust to analyze this issue) such excise taxes may be imposed as a result of payments made to any executive in the event of a future change in control, the amount of such payments to such executive will be reduced to a level that will not exceed the amount that would trigger such excise taxes, if such reduction would put the executive in a better after-tax position.

Bonus payments will be made in one lump sum within 60 days following the end of the fiscal year in which such termination occurs. Severance payments will be paid in approximately equal installments on the Trust's scheduled payroll dates and will be subject to the executive signing a general release.

In addition, the employment agreements for Messrs. Francis, Vicari and Adams provide up to \$10,000 annually for a comprehensive physical and medical examination and up to \$15,000 annually for financial planning services. These benefits will not continue beyond termination of the agreements. The employment agreements contain customary non-competition and non-solicitation covenants that apply during the term and for stated periods after the term of each executive's employment with the Trust, ranging from one to two years.

**Table of Contents****Potential Payments to Executive Officers Upon Termination**

The following table indicates the cash amounts, accelerated vesting and other payments and benefits that the named executive officers would be entitled to receive upon termination under various circumstances pursuant to the terms of the Equity Plan, the restricted share agreements made under the Equity Plan and their respective employment agreements. The table assumes that termination of the named executive officer from the Trust under the scenario shown occurred on December 31, 2015. The table also does not give effect to any reduction in payments to any executive that might occur under his employment agreement in the event that such reduction would put the executive in a better after-tax position than if his payments were not reduced and as a result he would become subject to additional taxes under Section 4999 of the Internal Revenue Code for receipt of excess parachute payments in the event of a termination or resignation following a change in control.

	Cash Severance Payment	Life/Health Insurance Benefits <sup>(4)</sup>	Acceleration of Equity Awards <sup>(5)</sup>	Total Termination Benefits
<b>James L. Francis<sup>(1)</sup></b>				
Involuntary termination without cause <sup>(2)</sup>	\$ 3,574,148	\$ 41,385	\$ 12,772,675	\$ 16,388,208
Voluntary termination or involuntary termination with cause				
Involuntary or good reason termination in connection with change in control <sup>(2)</sup>	\$ 5,361,222	\$ 62,077	\$ 12,772,675	\$ 18,195,974
Death or disability <sup>(3)</sup>			\$ 12,772,675	\$ 12,772,675
<b>Douglas W. Vicari<sup>(1)(6)</sup></b>				
Involuntary termination without cause <sup>(2)</sup>	\$ 1,893,250	\$ 192	\$ 5,112,286	\$ 7,005,728
Voluntary termination or involuntary termination with cause				
Involuntary or good reason termination in connection with change in control <sup>(2)</sup>	\$ 2,839,875	\$ 288	\$ 5,112,286	\$ 7,952,449
Death or disability <sup>(3)</sup>			\$ 5,112,286	\$ 5,112,286
<b>D. Rick Adams<sup>(1)</sup></b>				
Involuntary termination without cause <sup>(2)</sup>	\$ 1,750,024	\$ 41,385	\$ 5,112,286	\$ 6,903,695
Voluntary termination or involuntary termination with cause				
Involuntary or good reason termination in connection with change in control <sup>(2)</sup>	\$ 2,625,036	\$ 62,077	\$ 5,112,286	\$ 7,799,399
Death or disability <sup>(3)</sup>			\$ 5,112,286	\$ 5,112,286
<b>Graham J. Wootten<sup>(1)</sup></b>				
Involuntary termination without cause <sup>(2)</sup>	\$ 561,327	\$ 13,705	\$ 2,417,725	\$ 2,992,757
Voluntary termination or involuntary termination with cause				
Involuntary or good reason termination in connection with change in control <sup>(2)</sup>	\$ 1,122,654	\$ 27,409	\$ 2,417,725	\$ 3,567,788
Death or disability <sup>(3)</sup>			\$ 2,417,725	\$ 2,417,725

- (1) The amounts shown in this table do not include accrued salary, earned but unpaid bonuses or reimbursement of reasonable business expenses. Those amounts are payable to the executive officer upon any termination of his employment, including an involuntary termination with cause and a resignation without good reason.
- (2) Amounts in this row are calculated in accordance with provisions of the applicable employment agreement as described more fully under Employment Agreements.
- (3) A termination of this executive officer's employment due to death or disability entitles this executive officer to benefits under our life insurance and disability insurance plans. In addition, restricted shares immediately vest upon this executive officer's termination of employment due to death or disability.



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- (4) The amounts shown in this column are estimates of the cash payments to be made under the applicable employment agreement based on the annual premiums to be paid by the Trust for health care and life insurance benefits expected to be provided to each executive officer.
- (5) For purposes of this table, the market value per restricted share is assumed to be \$25.16, the closing market price per common share on December 31, 2015.
- (6) Mr. Vicari does not participate in the Trust's health insurance plan.

**Non-Executive Trustee Compensation**

As discussed in our proxy statement for our 2015 Annual Meeting, our Board approved increases in the compensation paid to our non-executive trustees based on Cook & Co.'s competitive analysis of trustee compensation at our peer group. Under the trustee compensation program which took effect on the date of our 2015 Annual Meeting, our non-executive trustees are paid an annual retainer fee of \$65,000, our Compensation Committee chairman is paid an additional annual retainer of \$15,000, and our Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee chairman is paid an additional annual retainer of \$10,000. Our Audit Committee chairman is paid an additional annual retainer of \$15,000 and Mr. Natelli, who serves as our non-executive Chairman of the Board, is paid an additional annual retainer of \$20,000. Each of the retainer fees are paid quarterly in cash.

Although we reimburse our trustees for reasonable out-of-pocket expenses incurred in connection with performance of their duties as trustees, including, without limitation, travel expenses in connection with their attendance at Board and committee meetings, we do not pay any trustee a separate fee for meetings attended. Furthermore, trustees do not receive any perquisites.

Our non-executive trustees may elect to receive their annual retainers and chair committee fees in whole or in part in the form of cash or immediately vested common shares based on the closing market price of our common shares on the grant date.

At each of our annual meetings, each of our non-executive trustees also receives an award of restricted shares, the number of which is determined based on the closing market price of our common shares on the date of such annual meeting as reported on the NYSE, with a value of \$75,000, except that our non-executive Chairman receives an award of restricted shares valued at \$100,000 in recognition of his expanded responsibilities as our non-executive Chairman. Accordingly, at our 2015 Annual Meeting, each of our non-executive trustees received an award of 2,344 restricted shares, except that Mr. Natelli received 3,126 restricted shares. Vesting for these awards will occur on the date of the subsequent annual meeting of shareholders, with acceleration upon termination due to death, disability or involuntary termination of service as a result of a change in control. Dividends will be paid on the unvested restricted shares when declared and paid on our common shares generally. Each of our non-executive trustees will receive an award of restricted shares at our 2016 Annual Meeting and each annual meeting thereafter under similar terms as described above.

The table below reflects the amount of the share awards and retainer fees paid to our non-executive trustees in 2015:

*Summary of Non-Executive Trustee 2015 Compensation*

Name	Fees Earned or Paid in Cash	Share Awards <sup>(1)</sup>	Total
Thomas A. Natelli	\$ 83,077	\$ 100,000	\$ 183,077
Thomas D. Eckert	\$ 78,077	\$ 75,000	\$ 153,077
John W. Hill	\$ 76,154	\$ 75,000	\$ 151,154
George F. McKenzie	\$ 72,115	\$ 75,000	\$ 147,115
Jeffrey D. Nuechterlein	\$ 63,077	\$ 75,000	\$ 138,077

- (1) All share awards were granted pursuant to our Equity Plan. The amounts in this column reflect the estimated grant-date fair value of the restricted share awards.

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### **Trustee Share Ownership Guidelines**

Our Board has established share ownership guidelines for our non-executive trustees because we believe that encouraging our non-executive trustees to attain and maintain a meaningful ownership interest in the Trust further aligns the interests of our trustees with those of our shareholders in creating long-term value for the Trust. Under the guidelines, each of our non-executive trustees is expected to own our common shares having an aggregate value equal to or greater than 5x the amount of the annual cash retainer currently paid to each non-executive trustee. The Board expects that all incumbent non-executive trustees will accumulate the minimum level of share ownership prior to February 2018, and any persons joining the Board will accumulate the minimum level of share ownership within three years of joining the Board. Under the guidelines, non-executive trustees are expected to retain common shares acquired by them pursuant to awards granted under our Equity Plan until the minimum ownership level has been attained. This expectation will not, however, prevent a non-executive trustee from selling or disposing of any common shares purchased directly or indirectly in the open market at any time.

Trustees are subject to the Trust's policy regarding hedging, short-selling and pledging of Trust securities as more fully described under Hedging, short-selling and pledging policy.

### **Compensation Committee Interlocks and Insider Participation**

As noted earlier, the Compensation Committee consists of Messrs. Hill, Natelli and Eckert. None of the members of the Compensation Committee is or has been one of our employees or officers. None of our executive officers currently serves, or during the past fiscal year has served, as a member of the board of trustees or compensation committee of another entity that has one or more executive officers serving on our Board or Compensation Committee.

## **PROPOSAL 3**

### **NON-BINDING ADVISORY VOTE TO APPROVE EXECUTIVE COMPENSATION**

As required by the Dodd-Frank Act we are asking shareholders to approve on an advisory basis, our executive compensation programs as described in this proxy statement in the Compensation Discussion and Analysis section, the tabular disclosures regarding such compensation and the accompanying narrative disclosure. At least once every six years, we are required by the Dodd-Frank Act to provide shareholders with an opportunity to cast a non-binding, advisory vote on the frequency of future advisory votes on executive compensation. At the 2017 Annual Meeting, we will again ask shareholders to approve on an advisory basis our executive compensation programs; and also at the 2017 Annual Meeting, we will again ask shareholders to advise the Trust of their preferences as to the frequency of future advisory votes on executive compensation. As discussed below, the Board recommends that you vote to approve the proposed resolution.

The Trust's goal for our executive compensation program is to hire, retain and motivate our senior management to grow our business and create long-term value. We believe that our compensation programs have been effective in creating the appropriate incentives for our named executive officers, as evidenced by the following key accomplishments during 2015, all of which were considered by the Compensation Committee in making its decisions in respect of compensation for our named executive officers for 2015:

We successfully completed a follow-on equity offering of common shares resulting in net proceeds of approximately \$153.7 million at the highest price of any offering the Trust had completed to date;

We amended our revolving credit facility in March 2015 to, among other things, take advantage of the attractive interest rate environment to reduce borrowing costs by 20 to 45 basis points depending on our consolidated leverage level, increase the maximum borrowing capacity from \$250 million to \$300 million with an option to increase to \$450 million, procure more favorable financial covenants and convert from a secured to an unsecured revolving credit facility;

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We acquired the 393-room Royal Palm South Beach Miami, a Tribute Portfolio Resort, the largest single-asset acquisition in our history and our first hotel in the Miami market, a top lodging market with one of the highest RevPAR in the United States;

We acquired the 182-room Ace Hotel and Theater Downtown Los Angeles, our second acquisition in the Downtown Los Angeles market and one that we believe is well positioned for future growth;

We finished 2015 with a strong balance sheet and industry leading credit statistics, including a fixed charge coverage ratio of 3.04x, a leverage ratio of 32.6% and a weighted-average interest rate of 3.87%;

We significantly enhanced the quality of our hotel portfolio during 2015. Our work during 2015 consisted of guestroom renovations at the Hyatt Regency Boston, the Le Meridien San Francisco and the Hyatt Fisherman's Wharf;

We achieved pro forma RevPAR growth of 5.7% for our hotel portfolio and significantly increased hotel profitability and margins during 2015 as a result of our asset management efforts. This pro forma RevPAR growth was achieved despite three guestroom renovations occurring within the hotel portfolio during 2015 which negatively impacted our operating results; and

Our investor relations efforts, including one-on-one meetings as well as numerous property tours for investors, analysts and lenders, continued throughout 2015.

Based on our performance, the Board has concluded that our executive compensation program should be approved by shareholders, and asks them to approve the following resolution.

**RESOLVED, that the compensation paid to the Trust's named executive officers, as disclosed pursuant to the rules of the Securities and Exchange Commission in the Compensation Discussion and Analysis section, compensation tables and accompanying narrative discussion, is hereby APPROVED.**

The vote to approve our executive compensation programs is advisory and non-binding on the Trust. However, the Compensation Committee, which is responsible for designing and administering the Trust's executive compensation programs, values the opinions expressed by the Trust's shareholders and will consider the outcome of the vote when making future compensation decisions.

**The Board of Trustees recommends that you vote FOR the resolution to approve our executive compensation programs as described in this proxy statement.**

## **PROPOSAL 4**

### **AMENDMENT TO OUR CHARTER**

Our Board has adopted and declared advisable, and recommends that our shareholders approve, an amendment to our Articles of Amendment and Restatement of Declaration of Trust as amended and supplemented to date, which we refer to as our charter. If approved by our shareholders, the charter amendment generally would:

Permit shareholders to act to amend our bylaws or make new bylaws pursuant to *binding* proposals submitted to them for approval by the Board or certain eligible shareholders, as further described below; and

Permit shareholders owning at least 0.015% of our outstanding common shares (representing an investment of approximately 9,000 common shares based on the number of shares outstanding on the record date for the 2016 Annual Meeting) continuously for at least one year to submit *binding* proposals to amend our bylaws or make new bylaws for approval by our shareholders.



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Adoption of the charter amendment would have no impact on the continuing ability of all shareholders to submit *non-binding* proposals for bylaw amendments or to make new bylaws.

On March 16, 2016, the Board adopted a resolution and determined it advisable (i) to adopt the charter amendment, and (ii) to recommend to the Trust's shareholders that they approve the charter amendment at the 2016 Annual Meeting. Pursuant to Section 10.3 of the charter, the charter amendment must be approved by the affirmative vote of the holders of not less than a majority of the common shares outstanding and entitled to vote at the 2016 Annual Meeting. If our shareholders approve the charter amendment by the required vote, the Trust will implement the charter amendment by filing appropriate articles of amendment with the Maryland state department of assessments and taxation. If our shareholders do not approve the charter amendment, the charter will continue in effect under the terms currently in place, and our Board would continue to have the exclusive power to adopt, alter or repeal any provision of our bylaws and to make new bylaws.

### **Background of the Trust's Proposal**

Maryland law permits (but does not require) Maryland real estate investment trusts ( REITs ) to vest the right to amend the bylaws solely in the board and not in the shareholders. Since its inception, the Trust's charter and bylaws, like those of many REITs organized under Maryland law, expressly have reserved the right to amend the bylaws to the Board. Because our trustees have fiduciary duties to the Trust and all of our shareholders, we believe the Board is in the best position to evaluate and determine the governance practices and principles that affect the Trust's operations.

During the 2015 proxy season, UNITE HERE, a labor union that represents employees working in the hotel industry and who acts as the bargaining representative for workers employed at three of the Trust's hotels (the Union ), campaigned against the Trust and several of its lodging peer companies, asking each company's shareholders to support a non-binding proposal that the company take all necessary action to provide shareholders the right to amend the bylaws of each company (the Union's Bylaw Amendment Proposal ). The Union's Bylaw Amendment Proposal comprised one of five non-binding proposals over which the Union waged a proxy contest against the Trust at its 2015 Annual Meeting. (The 2015 proxy contest followed a similar campaign, relating to three other governance-related matters, pursued by the Union against the Trust in 2014. Taken together with the shareholder proposal re-submitted this year, the Union has advanced nine proposals to the Trust over the last three years — quite remarkable given the nominal 0.0003% stake the Union holds in the Trust.)

The Board recommended against the Union's Bylaw Amendment Proposal and each of the four other Union proposals which were considered at the 2015 Annual Meeting. The Board's opposition to these proposals was based in part on its views of the underlying motivations of the proponent to further its long-standing efforts to unionize employees at certain of the Trust's hotels. As described in more detail in the 2015 proxy statement, while the Union's current and past proposals ostensibly are focused on corporate governance improvements, the Trust believes that in reality the proposals are intended to do little more than distract and annoy the Trust's Board and management, in hopes that these nuisance activities will result in the Trust's capitulation to the Union's to-date unsuccessful efforts to unionize the workforces at certain of the Trust's hotels in San Francisco. From its pattern of behavior agitating for changes at the Trust and other companies that could employ Union labor, or could employ Union labor to a larger degree, it is the sense of the Board and management that the Union's actions in submitting these shareholder proposals reflect a relatively low-cost pressure tactic to promote its own union organizing agenda, given that the Union has been unsuccessful in persuading the workforces at these hotels to organize.

The Trust's shareholders rejected the Union's Bylaw Amendment Proposal, and three of the Union's other four proposals, at the contested 2015 Annual Meeting, reinforcing the Trust's belief that the Union's proposals do not always align with the interests of our other shareholders. Still, the Board took note of the significant minority vote in favor of the Union's Bylaw Amendment Proposal, and asked management to conduct further outreach efforts following the 2015 Annual Meeting.

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Management continued to discuss this issue with several of the Trust's larger shareholders and certain corporate governance advisory firms. Management's objective was to strike an appropriate balance between granting shareholders the right to consider certain bylaw amendments, and deterring the ability of a particular shareholder to propose a bylaw amendment to advance a special interest not shared by our other shareholders in general.

Based on these discussions, the Board determined that the proposed charter amendment best advanced the interests of the Trust and its shareholders.

### **Summary of the Proposed Charter Amendment**

The material features of the charter amendment, as proposed, are summarized below. The following summary does not purport to be complete, and is subject to and qualified in its entirety by reference to the complete text of the charter amendment, which is included hereto as Appendix A.

Section 10.4 of our charter currently reserves to the Board the exclusive power to adopt, alter or repeal any provision of the Bylaws of the Trust and to make new Bylaws. The charter amendment would afford shareholders the right to act on a binding proposal to amend the bylaws or make a new bylaw that is properly submitted to them for consideration at a meeting of the Trust's shareholders by either the Board or an Eligible Shareholder that has complied with all applicable advance notice provisions and informational requirements required by the Trust's bylaws as in effect on the date of submission of such proposal.

For purposes of the charter amendment, an Eligible Shareholder is a shareholder that:

Has continuously economically owned at least 0.015% of the Trust's outstanding common shares for at least one full calendar year prior to submitting its proposed bylaw amendment or new bylaw to the Trust; and

Continues to economically own at least such minimum amount of the Trust's common shares through the date of the meeting at which its proposal is to be considered.

The 0.015% ownership requirement will be measured as of the date the shareholder proposal is properly submitted to the Trust, based on the Trust's outstanding common shares as reported by the Trust in its most recent Form 10-K or Form 10-Q filing with the SEC prior to the date of submission of the proposal.

If properly submitted to the Trust's shareholders following approval of the charter amendment, a binding proposal to amend the bylaws or make a new bylaw may be approved by affirmative vote of the holders of not less than a majority of the Trust's shares then outstanding and entitled to be voted on the proposal.

### **Comparing Proposal 4 and Proposal 5**

Both Proposal 4 and the shareholder proposal included in this proxy statement as Proposal 5, as further described below, relate to the ability of the Trust's shareholders to act to amend the Trust's bylaws. The primary difference between Proposal 4 and Proposal 5 is that Proposal 4 would limit the universe of holders permitted to propose a future binding bylaw amendment to holders who have maintained a meaningful level of ownership of the Trust's shares for a significant period of time. Imposing an ownership requirement reflects the Board's business judgment that it is fully appropriate for the Trust's key, long-term investors to be able to play a direct role in the corporate governance matters addressed in the Trust's bylaws. Conversely, the standards also reflect the Board's view that it is not efficient or in the best interests of the Trust or its shareholders to permit holders with transitory or nominal economic stakes in the Trust's success to be able to wield disproportionately large influence on its corporate governance policies and practices. The Board also views the ownership requirements as useful in deterring the ability of a particular shareholder to propose a bylaw amendment to advance a special interest not shared by our other shareholders in general, an action that the Board considers much less likely to occur if the shareholder has a meaningful level of investment in the Trust.

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**Effect of Approval of Proposal 4**

If the charter amendment is approved at our 2016 Annual Meeting, the Board will implement correlative amendments to Article VIII of the bylaws; approval of such bylaw amendments does not require shareholder approval and such bylaw amendments will not be implemented if the charter amendment is not approved. These actions will be taken if Proposal 4 is approved, regardless of the vote on Proposal 5.

**The Board of Trustees recommends that you vote FOR the approval of the charter amendment to permit shareholders to amend our bylaws pursuant to proposals submitted by the Board or certain eligible shareholders.**

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**PROPOSAL 5**

UNITE HERE, 275 7th Ave., New York, New York 10001, a labor union that represents employees working in the hotel industry and who acts as the bargaining representative for workers employed at three of the Trust's hotels (as previously defined, the Union), has submitted a non-binding shareholder proposal for inclusion in this proxy statement pursuant to SEC Rule 14a-8.

The Union, reporting beneficial ownership of 175 of the Trust's common shares (representing approximately 0.0003% of the Trust's common shares outstanding), has advised us it intends to seek shareholder support for its non-binding shareholder proposal at the 2016 Annual Meeting. The text of the shareholder proposal and any supporting statement from the Union are the sole responsibility of the Union.

**The Board of Trustees of the Trust believes that the core element of the Union's proposal would be substantially implemented by approval of Proposal 4 and therefore unanimously recommends a vote AGAINST Proposal 5.**

**Proposal from the Union**

RESOLVED, that the shareholders of Chesapeake Lodging Trust recommend the board of directors take all steps necessary to allow shareholders to amend our bylaws by a vote of the majority of shares outstanding, including amendments initiated by shareholders.

**The Union's Supporting Statement**

The ability to amend our Bylaws by a vote of the majority of shares outstanding is fundamental shareholder right, and one of the most effective tools shareholders have to hold Boards accountable. Shareholders at many listed lodging C-corporations enjoy this right, as do shareholders at two listed lodging REITs. Unfortunately, it is not a right currently held by Chesapeake shareholders; the Board retains the exclusive right to amend our Bylaws. A substantially identical proposal was supported by approximately 49% of votes cast at our 2015 annual meeting.

With the power to amend bylaws by majority vote, shareholders can not only achieve corporate governance reform more efficiently; they can make these reforms permanent by requiring shareholder approval to remove key shareholder rights. Without the independent right to amend bylaws, introducing shareholder-friendly governance changes can be a lengthy process fraught with uncertainty.

The ability to establish and retain shareholder rights becomes increasingly important as lodging REITs enter a period of increased merger and acquisition activity. The US hotel industry has witnessed improved operating fundamentals for six consecutive years. Near the top of the previous cycle, nearly half of the publicly traded equity lodging REITs then in existence were bought out, often at substantial premiums for shareholders. However, the tide turned quickly in the fourth quarter of 2007, and companies that waited to sell did not fare well. The NAREIT Lodging Index prices fell over 26% between August 2007 and January 2008; by March 2009, the index saw stock values plummet by an alarming 83% of its peak value in May 2007.

In recent months, the lodging industry has once again witnessed an uptick in merger/acquisition activity, including Blackstone's proposed acquisition of Strategic Hotels & Resorts in early September, and Marriott's offer to acquire Starwood Hotels & Resorts in November. Lodging REIT stock prices, however, have lost about a quarter of their value in the first nine months of 2015. We believe particularly at this point in the cycle it is in the best interests of shareholders to be able to efficiently pursue corporate governance reforms; therefore, we recommend shareholders vote FOR a recommendation that our Board give shareholders the right to amend our bylaws by a vote of the majority of shares outstanding.



**Table of Contents****SECURITY OWNERSHIP OF CERTAIN BENEFICIAL OWNERS AND MANAGEMENT**

The following table sets forth certain information, as of April 1, 2016, regarding the ownership of our common shares by:

each of our trustees;

each of our named executive officers;

each holder of 5% or more of each class of our shares; and

all of our trustees and executive officers as a group.

In accordance with SEC rules, each listed person's beneficial ownership includes:

all common shares the investor actually owns beneficially or of record;

all common shares over which the investor has or shares voting or dispositive control (such as in the capacity as a general partner of an investment fund); and

all common shares the investor has the right to acquire within 60 days (such as restricted shares which are scheduled to vest within 60 days).

Unless otherwise indicated, the address of each named person is c/o Chesapeake Lodging Trust, 1997 Annapolis Exchange Parkway, Suite 410, Annapolis, Maryland 21401. No common shares beneficially owned by any executive officer or trustee have been pledged as security.

<b>Beneficial Owner</b>	<b>Common Shares Owned</b>	<b>Percentage<sup>(1)</sup></b>
James L. Francis	490,572	*
Douglas W. Vicari	337,091	*
D. Rick Adams	169,795	*
Graham J. Wootten	89,169	*
Thomas A. Natelli	129,292	*
Thomas D. Eckert	68,015	*
John W. Hill	17,015	*
George F. McKenzie	17,619	*
Jeffrey D. Nuechterlein	19,015	*
All trustees and executive officers as a group (9 persons)	1,337,583	2.2%
The Vanguard Group <sup>(2)</sup>	8,762,423	14.6%
Vanguard Specialized Funds Vanguard REIT Index Fund <sup>(3)</sup>	4,301,168	7.2%
Goldman Sachs Asset Management <sup>(4)</sup>	6,517,633	10.8%
Blackrock, Inc. <sup>(5)</sup>	6,587,222	11.0%
Morgan Stanley and Morgan Stanley Investment Management Inc. <sup>(6)</sup>	3,730,784	6.2%

\* Represents less than 1% of the common shares outstanding as of April 1, 2016.

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- (1) Percentages are based on 60,083,747 common shares outstanding as of April 1, 2016.
- (2) On February 11, 2016, The Vanguard Group filed a Schedule 13G/A to report beneficial ownership of an aggregate of 8,762,423 common shares, of which it has sole voting power for 166,909 shares, shared voting power for 49,400 shares, sole dispositive power for 8,636,001 shares and shared dispositive power for 126,422 shares. The address for this shareholder is 100 Vanguard Boulevard, Malvern, Pennsylvania 19355.
- (3) On February 9, 2016, the Vanguard Specialized Funds Vanguard REIT Index Fund filed a Schedule 13G/A to report beneficial ownership of 4,301,168 common shares, of which it has sole voting power for all 4,301,168 shares. The address for this shareholder is 100 Vanguard Boulevard, Malvern, Pennsylvania 19355.

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- (4) On January 11, 2016, Goldman Sachs Asset Management, L.P. and GS Investment Strategies, LLC jointly filed a Schedule 13G/A to report beneficial ownership of 6,517,633 common shares, of which it has shared voting power for 6,227,882 shares and shared dispositive power for 6,517,633 shares. The address for this shareholder is 200 West Street, New York, New York 10282.
- (5) On January 8, 2016, Blackrock, Inc. filed a Schedule 13G/A to report beneficial ownership of 6,587,222 common shares, of which it has sole voting power for 6,383,435 shares and sole dispositive power for 6,587,222 shares. The address for this shareholder is 55 East 52nd Street, New York, New York 10055.
- (6) On February 11, 2016, Morgan Stanley and Morgan Stanley Investment Management Inc. ( MSIM ) jointly filed a Schedule 13G to report beneficial ownership of 3,730,784 common shares. In the filing, each of Morgan Stanley and MSIM reported having sole voting power for 2,925,444 shares, shared voting power for 324,547 shares and shared dispositive power for 3,730,784 shares. The address for Morgan Stanley is 1585 Broadway, New York, New York 10036. The address for MSIM is 522 5th Avenue, New York, New York 10036.

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**CERTAIN RELATIONSHIPS AND RELATED TRANSACTIONS AND LEGAL PROCEEDINGS**

**Related Party Transactions**

During the last fiscal year, we have not entered into any transaction in which the amount involved exceeds \$120,000 and in which any related person had or will have a direct or indirect material interest, and no such transactions are currently proposed.

**Conflict of Interest Policy**

We have adopted policies to reduce potential conflicts of interest. A conflict of interest occurs when a trustee's, officer's or employee's personal interest interferes with our interest. Generally, our policies provide that any transaction, agreement or relationship in which any of our trustees, officers or employees has an interest must be approved by our Audit Committee or a majority of our disinterested trustees.

Applicable Maryland law provides that a contract or other transaction between a Maryland real estate investment trust and any of that entity's trustees or any other entity in which that trustee is also a trustee or director or has a material financial interest is not void or voidable solely on the grounds of the common board membership or interest, the fact that the trustee was present at the meeting at which the contract or transaction is approved or the fact that the trustee's vote was counted in favor of the contract or transaction, if:

the fact of the common board membership or interest is disclosed to the board or a committee of the board, and the board or that committee authorizes the contract or transaction by the affirmative vote of a majority of the disinterested members, even if the disinterested members constitute less than a quorum;

the fact of the common board membership or interest is disclosed to shareholders entitled to vote on the contract or transaction, and the contract or transaction is approved by a majority of the votes cast by the shareholders entitled to vote on the matter, other than votes of shares owned of record or beneficially by the interested director, corporation, firm or other entity; or

the contract or transaction is fair and reasonable to the trust. Our declaration of trust specifically adopts these provisions of Maryland law.

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

We believe that all of our trustees, executive officers and beneficial owners of more than 10% of our common shares reported on a timely basis all transactions required to be reported by Section 16(a) of the Exchange Act during 2015, except that a Form 4 was filed late by Mr. Adams to report the acquisition of common shares.

**ANNUAL REPORT ON FORM 10-K**

All shareholders receiving this proxy statement should have also received a paper copy or access to an electronic copy of the 2015 Annual Report, which includes our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2015. **Shareholders may request a free copy of our 2015 Annual Report on Form 10-K, including applicable financial statements and schedules, by sending a written request to: 1997 Annapolis Exchange Parkway, Suite 410, Annapolis, Maryland 21401. Alternatively, shareholders can access the 2015 Annual Report on Form 10-K and other financial information on our website at: <http://www.chesapeakelodgingtrust.com>.** We will also furnish any exhibit to the 2015 Annual Report on Form 10-K upon written request and payment of a copying charge of 20 cents per page.

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**DEADLINES FOR RECEIPT OF SHAREHOLDER PROPOSALS FOR CONSIDERATION AT OUR 2017 ANNUAL MEETING**

Any proposal that a holder of our common shares wishes to submit for inclusion in the Chesapeake Lodging Trust Proxy Statement for the 2017 Annual Meeting ( 2017 Proxy Statement ) pursuant to SEC Rule 14a-8 must be received by Chesapeake Lodging Trust no later than December 13, 2016. Such proposals also must comply with SEC regulations under Rule 14a-8 regarding the inclusion of shareholder proposals in company-sponsored proxy materials. In addition, notice of any proposal that a holder of our common shares wishes to propose for consideration at the 2017 Annual Meeting, but does not seek to include in the 2017 Proxy Statement pursuant to Rule 14a-8, must be delivered to Chesapeake Lodging Trust no earlier than January 17, 2017 and no later than February 16, 2017 if the proposing holder of our common shares wishes for Chesapeake Lodging Trust to describe the nature of the proposal in its 2017 Proxy Statement. Any shareholder proposals or notices submitted to Chesapeake Lodging Trust in connection with our 2017 Annual Meeting should be addressed to: Corporate Secretary, Chesapeake Lodging Trust, 1997 Annapolis Exchange Parkway, Suite 410, Annapolis, Maryland 21401.

Annapolis, Maryland

April 12, 2016

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**ATTENDING THE 2016 ANNUAL MEETING**

Only shareholders or their legal proxy holders who comply with the admission requirements described below may attend the 2016 Annual Meeting. Due to space constraints and other security considerations, we will not be able to accommodate the guests of either shareholders or their legal proxy holders.

**Admission to the 2016 Annual Meeting**

To be admitted to the 2016 Annual Meeting, you must present an admission ticket, valid proof of ownership of the Trust's common shares as of April 1, 2016 or a valid legal proxy. All attendees must also provide a form of government-issued photo identification. If you arrive at the 2016 Annual Meeting without the required items, we will admit you only if we are able to verify that you are a shareholder of the Trust as of April 1, 2016.

Shareholders of record may gain admittance to the 2016 Annual Meeting by presenting the admission ticket that is attached to their proxy card delivered with their proxy statement or by providing other proof of ownership of the Trust's common shares as of April 1, 2016. The admission ticket is non-transferable. If your shares are held in the name of a bank, broker, trustee or other nominee and you plan to attend the 2016 Annual Meeting, you will need to bring the admission ticket provided by your bank, broker, trustee or other nominee, as well as proof of ownership as of April 1, 2016, such as a recent bank or brokerage account statement. If you are not a shareholder but attending as proxy for a shareholder, you may attend the 2016 Annual Meeting by presenting a valid legal proxy. Shareholders may appoint only one proxy holder to attend on their behalf.

If you are representing an entity that is a shareholder, you must provide evidence of your authority to represent that entity at the 2016 Annual Meeting. Shareholders holding shares in a joint account will be admitted to the 2016 Annual Meeting if they provide proof of joint ownership and otherwise follow the admission requirements described above.

**Proponent of Shareholder Proposal**

On or before April 30, 2016, the proponent of a shareholder proposal included in this proxy statement should notify the Trust in writing of the individual authorized to present the proposal at the 2016 Annual Meeting.

**Directions to the 2016 Annual Meeting**

Our 2016 Annual Meeting will be held at the Courtyard Washington Capitol Hill/Navy Yard, 140 L Street, SE, Washington, DC 20003. The Courtyard Washington Capitol Hill/Navy Yard is accessible from Reagan National Airport, Dulles International Airport and Baltimore/Washington International Airport as follows:

From Reagan National Airport (DCA): Take George Washington Parkway North, and exit at I-395 North towards Washington, DC. Take the Maine Avenue Exit, and turn left at the stop light onto Maine Avenue (which becomes M Street). Turn left onto New Jersey Avenue, SE. Turn right onto L Street, SE. The hotel is located on the corner of New Jersey Avenue, SE and L Street, SE.

From Dulles International Airport (IAD): Take the Dulles Airport Access Road, and merge onto I-66 East towards Washington, DC. Exit at Route 110 South via Exit 75 towards the Pentagon/Alexandria. Take I-395 North towards Washington, DC. Take the Maine Avenue Exit, and turn left at the stop light onto Maine Avenue (which becomes M Street). Turn left onto New Jersey Avenue, SE. Turn right onto L Street, SE. The hotel is located on the corner of New Jersey Avenue, SE and L Street, SE.

From Baltimore/Washington International Airport (BWI): Take I-195 West. Merge onto MD-295 South (which becomes I-295 South) via Exit 2B towards Washington, DC. Exit at Howard Road via Exit 3B, and turn right at the stop light onto Howard Road. Turn right onto South Capitol Street, SE. Turn right onto K Street, SW. Turn right onto New Jersey Avenue, SE. Turn left onto L Street, SE. The hotel is located on the corner of New Jersey Avenue, SE and L Street, SE.



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**APPENDIX A**

Set forth below is text of the proposed Charter Amendment, with new text indicated with underlining.

Section 10.4 Bylaws.

(a) The Board of Trustees shall have the exclusive power to adopt, alter or repeal any provision of the Bylaws of the Trust and to make new Bylaws, except as set forth in the next sentence of this Section 10.4. The Bylaws also may be adopted, altered or repealed, and new Bylaws may be made pursuant to a binding proposal that is (a) submitted to the Shareholders for approval at a duly called annual or special meeting of Shareholders by (i) the Board of Trustees, or (ii) an Eligible Shareholder (as defined below) in compliance with all applicable advance notice provisions of the Bylaws then in effect together with all such information as may be required or as may be requested by the Board of Trustees in accordance with such provisions, and (b) approved by the affirmative vote of the holders of not less than a majority of the Shares then outstanding and entitled to vote on such proposal or such other standard as may be required to approve such proposal by an express provision of the Bylaws as then in effect.

(b) An Eligible Shareholder is a Shareholder that has (a) demonstrated to the satisfaction of the Board or its designee that such shareholder has continuously owned not less than the Minimum Amount (as defined below) of the Trust's Common Shares throughout the one-year period preceding and including the date of submission of the proposal, and (b) agreed to continue to own not less than the Minimum Amount of such Common Shares through the date of the meeting (including any adjournment or postponement thereof) at which such proposal is to be considered. As used in this Section 10.4, the term Minimum Amount means 0.015% of the Trust's outstanding Common Shares as reported by the Trust in its most recent Form 10-K or Form 10-O filing with the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission prior to the date of submission of the proposal.

(c) In addition to the other information required pursuant to the applicable advance notice provisions of the Trust's Bylaws as then in effect, a Shareholder holding Common Shares through a nominee or other intermediary seeking to be deemed an Eligible Shareholder shall provide to the Secretary of the Trust, at the time of submitting its proposal pursuant to this Section 10.4, evidence of continuous ownership of not less than such Minimum Amount of such Common Shares for the period described above. Such evidence shall be provided in a form that the Board of Trustees or its designee, acting in good faith, determines would be deemed acceptable for purposes of a shareholder proposal made under Rule 14a-8(b)(2) under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (or any successor rule).

(d) For purposes of determining whether any holder of Common Shares qualifies as an Eligible Shareholder pursuant to this Section 10.4:

(i) A holder shall be deemed to own only those outstanding Common Shares of the Trust as to which such holder possess both:

(A) the full voting and investment rights pertaining to such Common Shares; and

(B) the full economic interest in (including the opportunity for profit and risk of loss on) such Common Shares;

provided, however, that the number of Common Shares calculated in accordance with clauses (i)(A) and (i)(B) shall not include any Common Shares: (1) sold by such holder or any of its affiliates in any transaction that has not been settled or closed, (2) borrowed by such holder or any of its affiliates for any purpose or purchased by such holder or any of its affiliates pursuant to an agreement to resell, or (3) subject to any option, warrant, forward contract, swap, contract of sale, other derivative or similar agreement entered into by such holder or any of its affiliates, whether any such instrument or agreement is to be settled with such Common Shares or with cash



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based on the notional amount or value of the Trust's outstanding Common Shares, in any such case which instrument or agreement has, or is intended to have, the purpose or effect of: (x) reducing in any manner, to any extent or at any time in the future, such holder's or any of its affiliates' full right to vote or direct the voting of any such Common Shares, and/or (y) hedging, offsetting, or altering to any degree, gain or loss arising from the full economic ownership of such common shares by such holder or any of its affiliates.

(ii) A holder shall be deemed to own Common Shares held in the name of a nominee or other intermediary so long as the holder retains the right to instruct how the common shares are voted with respect to the election of Trustees and possesses the full economic interest in the Common Shares. A holder's ownership of Common Shares shall be deemed to continue during any period in which the holder has delegated any voting power by means of a proxy, power of attorney, or other similar instrument or arrangement that is revocable at any time by the holder. An holder's ownership of Common Shares shall be deemed to continue during any period in which the holder has loaned such Common Shares, provided that the holder has the power to recall such loaned Common Shares on three business days' notice and has recalled such loaned Common Shares as of the date it submits its proposal pursuant to the applicable advance notice provisions of the Trust's Bylaws as then in effect and holds such Common Shares through the date of the meeting (including any adjournment or postponement thereof). The terms owned, owning and other variations of the word own shall have correlative meanings.

(iii) Whether outstanding Common Shares of the Trust are owned by a holder purporting to be an Eligible Shareholder for the purposes of this Section 10.4 shall be determined by the Board in its sole discretion.

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**ANNUAL MEETING OF SHAREHOLDERS OF  
CHESAPEAKE LODGING TRUST**

**May 17, 2016**

**GO GREEN**

e-Consent makes it easy to go paperless. With e-Consent, you can quickly access your proxy material, statements and other eligible documents online, while reducing costs, clutter and paper waste. Enroll today via [www.amstock.com](http://www.amstock.com) to enjoy online access.

**IMPORTANT NOTICE REGARDING THE AVAILABILITY OF PROXY MATERIAL:**

The Notice of Meeting, proxy statement and proxy card

are available at <https://materials.proxyvote.com/165240>

Please sign, date and mail your proxy card in the envelope

provided as soon as possible.

i Please detach along perforated line and mail in the envelope provided.

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**THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES RECOMMENDS THAT YOU VOTE FOR EACH OF THE TRUSTEE NOMINEES,  
FOR PROPOSAL 2, FOR PROPOSAL 3, FOR PROPOSAL 4 AND AGAINST PROPOSAL 5.**

**PLEASE SIGN, DATE AND RETURN PROMPTLY IN THE ENCLOSED ENVELOPE. PLEASE MARK YOUR VOTE IN BLUE  
OR BLACK INK AS SHOWN HERE x**

1. Consider and vote upon a proposal to elect seven trustees to the Trust's Board of Trustees.

	FOR	AGAINST	ABSTAIN
James L. Francis	..	..	..
Douglas W. Vicari	..	..	..
Thomas A. Natelli	..	..	..
Thomas D. Eckert	..	..	..
John W. Hill	..	..	..
George F. McKenzie	..	..	..
Jeffrey D. Nuechterlein	..	..	..

FOR	AGAINST	ABSTAIN
..	..	..

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2. Consider and vote upon a proposal to ratify the appointment of Ernst & Young LLP as the Trust's independent registered public accounting firm for 2016.

FOR    AGAINST    ABSTAIN

3. Consider and vote upon a non-binding advisory proposal to approve the Trust's executive compensation programs as described in the Trust's 2016 proxy statement.

FOR    AGAINST    ABSTAIN

4. Consider and vote upon a proposal to amend the Trust's charter to permit shareholders to act to amend the Trust's bylaws or make new bylaws pursuant to binding proposals submitted to them for approval by the Board of Trustees or certain eligible shareholders.

FOR    AGAINST    ABSTAIN

5. Consider and vote upon a non-binding shareholder proposal to amend the Trust's governing documents to permit shareholders to act to amend the Trust's bylaws.

FOR    AGAINST    ABSTAIN

To change the address on your account, please check the box at right and indicate your new address in the address space above. Please note that changes to the registered name(s) on the account may not be submitted via this method.

Signature of Shareholder

Date:

Signature of Shareholder

Date:

**Note:** Please sign exactly as your name or names appear on this Proxy. When shares are held jointly, each holder should sign. When signing as executor, administrator, attorney, trustee or guardian, please give full title as such. If the signer is a corporation, please sign full corporate name by duly authorized officer, giving full title as such. If signer is a partnership, please sign in partnership name by authorized person.

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**ADMISSION TICKET**

**ANNUAL MEETING OF SHAREHOLDERS OF  
CHESAPEAKE LODGING TRUST**

**May 17, 2016**

**COURTYARD WASHINGTON CAPITOL HILL/NAVY YARD  
AGENDA**

1. ELECTION OF TRUSTEES

2. RATIFICATION OF ERNST & YOUNG LLP AS INDEPENDENT REGISTERED PUBLIC ACCOUNTING FIRM

3. ADVISORY VOTE TO APPROVE EXECUTIVE COMPENSATION

4. CHARTER AMENDMENT TO PERMIT SHAREHOLDERS TO AMEND THE TRUST'S BYLAW IN CERTAIN CIRCUMSTANCES

5. CONSIDER NON-BINDING SHAREHOLDER PROPOSAL

6. TRANSACTION OF OTHER BUSINESS AS MAY PROPERLY COME BEFORE THE 2016 ANNUAL MEETING

*Shareholders of record may present this Admission Ticket to the Chesapeake Lodging Trust representative at the entrance to gain admittance to the 2016 Annual Meeting.*

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**CHESAPEAKE LODGING TRUST**

**Proxy for Annual Meeting of Shareholders on May 17, 2016**

**Solicited on Behalf of the Board of Trustees**

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The undersigned hereby appoints James L. Francis, Douglas W. Vicari and Graham J. Wootten, and each of them, with full power of substitution and power to act alone, as proxies to vote all the Common Shares of Beneficial Interest which the undersigned would be entitled to vote if personally present and acting at the Annual Meeting of Shareholders of Chesapeake Lodging Trust, to be held May 17, 2016 at the Courtyard Washington Capitol Hill/Navy Yard, 140 L Street, SE, Washington, DC 20003, and at any adjournments or postponements thereof, as follows:

**(Continued and to be signed on the reverse side.)**

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