Trinity Place Holdings Inc. Form DEF 14A April 30, 2019 **TABLE OF CONTENTS UNITED STATES** SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION WASHINGTON, DC 20549 SCHEDULE 14A (Rule 14a-101) INFORMATION REQUIRED IN PROXY STATEMENT **SCHEDULE 14A INFORMATION** Proxy Statement pursuant to Section 14(a) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 Filed by the Registrant Filed by a Party other than the Registrant Check the appropriate box: **Preliminary Proxy Statement** Confidential, for Use of the Commission Only (as permitted by Rule 14a-6(e)(2)) **Definitive Proxy Statement Definitive Additional Materials** Soliciting Material Pursuant to §240.14a-12 Trinity Place Holdings Inc. (Name of Registrant as Specified in its Charter) (Name of Person(s) Filing Proxy Statement, if Other than the Registrant) Payment of Filing Fee (Check the appropriate box): No fee required Fee computed on the table below per Exchange Act Rules 14a-6(i)(1) and 0-11. (1) Title of each class of securities to which transaction applies:

(2) Aggregate number of securities to which transaction applies:
(3) Per unit price or other underlying value of transaction computed pursuant to Exchange Act Rule 0-11 (set forth the amount on which the filing fee is calculated and state how it was determined):
(4) Proposed maximum aggregate value of transaction:
(5) Total fee paid:
Fee paid previously with preliminary materials.
Check box if any part of the fee is offset as provided by Exchange Act Rule 0-11(a)(2) and identify the filing for which the offsetting fee was paid previously. Identify the previous filing by registration statement number, or the Form or Schedule and the date of its filing:
(1) Amount Previously Paid:
(2) Form, Schedule or Registration Statement No.:
(3) Filing Party:
(4) Date Filed:

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#### TRINITY PLACE HOLDINGS INC.

340 Madison Avenue, Suite 3C

New York, New York 10173

NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING OF STOCKHOLDERS

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the 2019 Annual Meeting of Stockholders of Trinity Place Holdings Inc., a Delaware corporation (the "Company"), will be held at 17 State Street, Suite 2100, New York, New York 10004, the sales center for 77 Greenwich Street, on June 13, 2019 beginning at 10:00 am local time for the following purposes:

The election of each of Alan Cohen, Matthew Messinger and Keith Pattiz as a Class I member of our Board of Directors:

2.

The ratification of the appointment of BDO USA, LLP as our independent registered public accounting firm for the calendar year ending December 31, 2019;

3.

The approval of an amendment and restatement of the Company's 2015 Stock Incentive Plan, including an increase to the number of shares of common stock available for awards under the Stock Incentive Plan by 1,000,000 shares; and

4.

The transaction of such other business, if any, as may properly come before the meeting.

Stockholders of record at the close of business on April 18, 2019 are entitled to notice of, and to vote at, the Annual Meeting and any adjournment or postponement of the meeting.

A proxy for use at the Annual Meeting in the form attached to this notice is being solicited by and on behalf of our Board of Directors from the holders of our common stock. Stockholders with shares registered in their name or with appropriate documents may withdraw their proxies at the meeting in the event they attend the meeting and desire to vote in person, and they may revoke their proxies for any reason at any time prior to the voting thereof.

By order of the Board of Directors,

/s/ Richard G. Pyontek

Richard G. Pyontek Corporate Secretary New York, New York April 30, 2019

Important Notice Regarding the Availability of Proxy Materials for the

Annual Meeting of Stockholders to be Held on June 13, 2019:

Our Proxy Statement and Annual Report to Stockholders

will be available on or about April 30, 2019 on our website at www.trinityplaceholdings.com

under the Investor Relations tab or through www.proxyvote.com.

YOUR VOTE IS IMPORTANT

Please vote as promptly as possible by using the Internet or telephone or by signing, dating and returning the proxy card mailed to those who receive paper copies of this proxy statement.

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340 Madison Avenue, Suite 3C New York, New York 10173 PROXY STATEMENT

This proxy statement is furnished to stockholders of Trinity Place Holdings Inc. (the "Company" or "Trinity") in connection with the solicitation of proxies, in the accompanying form, by our Board of Directors (the "Board of Directors" or "Board") for use in voting at the 2019 Annual Meeting of Stockholders (the "Annual Meeting") to be held at 17 State Street, Suite 2100, New York, NY 10004, the sales center for 77 Greenwich Street, on Thursday, June 13, 2019, at 10:00 a.m. local time, and at any adjournment or postponement thereof.

We expect our proxy materials, including this proxy statement and our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2018 (the "Annual Report"), will be made available to stockholders on or about April 30, 2019 on our website at www.trinityplaceholdings.com under the Investor Relations tab or through www.proxyvote.com.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ABOUT

OUR PROXY MATERIALS AND THE ANNUAL MEETING

Q:

Why am I receiving these materials?

A:

You are receiving these materials because you were a stockholder of Trinity Place Holdings Inc. at the close of business on April 18, 2019, the date for determining those persons entitled to notice of, and to vote at, the Annual Meeting.

Q:

Why did I receive a notice in the mail or by e-mail about the Internet availability of proxy materials instead of a full set of the materials?

#### A:

Under rules adopted by the Securities and Exchange Commission (the "SEC"), we have the ability to furnish our proxy materials over the Internet if we send each stockholder of record and each beneficial owner a written notice that the materials are available over the Internet. All stockholders will have the ability to access our proxy materials on the website specified in the notice, free of charge, or to request that a printed set of the materials be sent to them. Instructions on how to access the proxy materials over the Internet or to request printed copies of the proxy materials may be found in the notice. Stockholders may also request to receive proxy materials electronically by e-mail on an on-going basis.

O:

What am I voting on?

A:

Holders of common stock are being asked to vote on the following proposals:

The election of each of Alan Cohen, Matthew Messinger and Keith Pattiz as a Class I member of the Board of Directors;

The ratification of the appointment of BDO USA, LLP as our independent registered public accounting firm for the calendar year ending December 31, 2019;

- The approval of an amendment and restatement of the Company's 2015 Stock Incentive Plan (the "Stock Incentive Plan"), including an increase to the number of shares of common stock available for awards under the Stock Incentive Plan by 1,000,000 shares; and
- Such other business, if any, as may properly come before the meeting.

As of the date of this proxy statement, the Board knows of no other matters that will be brought before the Annual Meeting.



O:

Who can vote?

#### A:

All persons that own shares of our common stock directly in their name as the stockholder of record are entitled to cast one vote for each share owned on all proposals to be considered at the meeting. As of April 18, 2019, there were 31,846,908 shares of common stock outstanding and entitled to vote. If you are a beneficial owner of stock who holds shares indirectly, such as through a broker, bank or other nominee, you should follow instructions from the record owner of your shares in order to vote your shares.

Q:

What if my shares are registered in more than one person's name?

#### A:

If you own shares that are registered in the name of more than one person, each person must sign the proxy. If an attorney, executor, administrator, trustee, guardian or any other person signs the proxy in a representative capacity, the full title of the person signing the proxy must be given and a certificate must be furnished showing evidence of appointment.

Q:

How do I vote?

A:

You have four alternative methods to cast your vote. You may vote:

Over the Internet:

By telephone;

By completing, signing and returning the proxy card, if you requested to receive printed copies of our proxy materials;

By attending the Annual Meeting and voting in person.

The Notice of Internet Availability of Proxy Materials contains instructions regarding access to your proxy card, which contains Internet and telephone voting instructions. If you requested to receive printed copies of our proxy materials, instructions for voting over the Internet, by telephone and by mail are set forth on the proxy card. Please follow the applicable instructions carefully.

Q:

What happens if I don't give specific voting instructions on my proxy card?

#### A:

If you are a stockholder of record and submit a signed proxy card or submit your proxy by telephone or over the Internet but do not specify how you want to vote your shares on a particular proposal, then the proxy holders will vote your shares in accordance with the recommendation of the Board. If currently unanticipated matters are properly presented for a vote at the Annual Meeting, the proxy holders will vote your shares in accordance with their best

judgment.

If you hold your shares in street name with a broker, bank or other nominee and do not provide specific voting instructions, the broker, bank or other nominee holding your shares can generally vote the shares on routine matters, but cannot vote the shares on non-routine matters. At the Annual Meeting, the ratification of the appointment of BDO USA, LLP as our independent registered public accounting firm is considered a routine matter, and the other proposals which are scheduled to be voted on, or which may be properly presented at the meeting for a vote, are considered non-routine matters. If the broker, bank or other nominee holding your shares does not receive instructions from you on how to vote your shares on a non-routine matter, the broker, bank or other nominee holding your shares will inform the inspector of elections that it does not have authority to vote on the matter with respect to your shares. This is generally referred to as a "broker non-vote." Shares represented by broker non-votes will be counted in determining the existence of a quorum, but are not deemed entitled to vote and, therefore, will have no effect on the outcome of the voting and such broker non-votes will not be included in the number of shares present in person or by proxy and entitled to vote on the matter from which the number of votes required for approval is calculated.

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O:

Can I change my mind after I vote?

#### A:

Yes, you can change your vote at any time before the polls close at the Annual Meeting. There are four methods by which you can effect a change in your vote:

Vote again by telephone or over the Internet prior to 11:59 p.m., Eastern Standard Time, on June 12, 2019;

Give written notice to the Corporate Secretary at the address of our principal executive offices specified on the first page of this proxy statement;

Deliver a later-dated proxy; or

Vote in person at the Annual Meeting.

O:

Can I vote at the Annual Meeting?

#### A:

Yes, if you attend the Annual Meeting in person. Even if you plan to be present at the Annual Meeting, we urge you to vote your shares by proxy. If you vote your shares by proxy, you can change your mind and vote your shares at the Annual Meeting if you attend in person. If you are a beneficial owner of stock who holds shares indirectly through a broker, bank or other nominee, you must obtain a legal "proxy" from the record owner of your shares in order to vote in person.

Q:

How many shares must be present to conduct business at the Annual Meeting?

#### A:

If a majority of the outstanding shares of common stock entitled to vote at the meeting are present in person or by proxy, sufficient shares will be present at the Annual Meeting to conduct business on all proposals. This is typically referred to as the quorum requirement.

Q:

How many votes are needed to elect directors?

#### A:

At the Annual Meeting, the holders of our common stock will be asked to vote on the election of three directors. Directors will be elected by a plurality of the votes cast, either in person or by proxy. Stockholders cannot cumulate votes in the election of directors. Abstentions and broker non-votes have no effect on the outcome of director elections. Accordingly, if a quorum is present and assuming no director nominations by stockholders at the Annual Meeting, the three nominated directors will be elected for the terms described in these proxy materials.

Q:

How many votes are needed to ratify the appointment of BDO USA, LLP as our independent registered public accounting firm?

#### A:

Ratification of the appointment of our independent registered public accounting firm requires the affirmative vote of a majority of the votes represented at the meeting and entitled to vote on the matter. In accordance with Delaware law, only votes cast "FOR" a matter constitute affirmative votes. A properly executed proxy marked "abstain" with respect to the ratification of the appointment of our independent registered public accounting firm will not be voted, although it will be counted for purposes of determining whether there is a quorum. Since abstentions will not be votes cast "FOR" the ratification of the appointment of our independent registered public accounting firm, they will have the same effect as negative votes or votes against the matter. As noted above, the ratification of the appointment of BDO USA, LLP is considered a routine matter under applicable rules, and therefore no broker non-votes are expected in connection with this proposal.

Q:

How many votes are needed to approve the amendment and restatement of the Stock Incentive Plan?

#### A:

Approval of the amendment and restatement of the Stock Incentive Plan, including an increase to the number of shares of common stock available for awards under the Stock Incentive Plan, requires the affirmative vote of a majority of the votes represented at the meeting and entitled to vote on the matter. In accordance with Delaware law, only votes cast "FOR" a matter constitute affirmative votes. A properly executed proxy marked "abstain" with respect to approval of the proposed amendment and restatement of the Stock Incentive Plan, will not be voted, although it will be counted for purposes of

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determining whether there is a quorum. Since abstentions will not be votes cast "FOR" approval of the proposed amendment and restatement of the Stock Incentive Plan, they will have the same effect as negative votes or votes against the matter. As noted above, broker non-votes will have no effect on this matter.

O:

Who will pay the cost of soliciting votes for the Annual Meeting?

#### A:

We will pay the cost of preparing, assembling, printing, mailing and distributing our proxy materials. The solicitation of proxies or votes may be made by mail, in person, by telephone, by electronic and facsimile transmission or similar methods by our directors, officers and employees, who will not receive any additional compensation for such solicitation activities. In addition, we may reimburse the Transfer Agent, brokerage firms and other persons representing beneficial owners of shares of our common stock for their expenses in forwarding solicitation material to such beneficial owners.

Q:

Is my vote confidential?

#### A:

Yes. We encourage stockholder participation in corporate governance by ensuring the confidentiality of stockholder votes. Your vote on any particular proposal will be kept confidential and will not be disclosed by the inspector of election except where disclosure is required by applicable law, disclosure of your vote is expressly requested by you or we conclude in good faith that a bona fide dispute exists as to the authenticity of one or more proxies, ballots or votes, or as to the accuracy of any tabulation of such proxies, ballots or votes. However, aggregate vote totals will be disclosed to us from time to time and publicly announced following the Annual Meeting.

O:

Why did I receive more than one set of printed materials?

#### A:

If you received more than one set of printed materials, then you have multiple accounts with brokers or our Transfer Agent. Please vote all of these shares. We also recommend that you contact your broker or our Transfer Agent, as applicable, to consolidate as many accounts as possible under the same name and address. Our Transfer Agent is American Stock Transfer & Trust Company, LLC, which can be contacted by telephone at (718) 921-8300.

Q:

How do I get electronic access to the proxy materials?

## A:

Our proxy statement and Annual Report are available on our website at www.trinityplaceholdings.com under the Investor Relations tab and at www.proxyvote.com. The Notice of Internet Availability of Proxy Materials provides detailed instructions regarding how to view the proxy materials on the Internet, to execute a proxy and to instruct us to send future proxy materials to you electronically by e-mail. Choosing to receive future proxy materials by e-mail will save us the cost of printing and mailing documents to you and will reduce the impact of our annual meeting on the environment. If you choose to receive future proxy materials by e-mail, you will receive an e-mail next year with instructions containing a link to those materials and a link to the proxy voting site. Your election to receive proxy materials by e-mail will remain in effect until you terminate it.

Q:

Where can I find the voting results of the Annual Meeting?

# A:

We will announce preliminary results at the Annual Meeting and publish preliminary, or final if available, results in a Current Report on Form 8-K within four business days after the Annual Meeting.

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#### MATTERS SUBMITTED TO STOCKHOLDERS

#### PROPOSAL 1 — ELECTION OF DIRECTORS

Under our Certificate of Incorporation, the Board is divided into two classes, as nearly equal in number as possible, designated Class I and Class II. Each director serves for a term ending on the date of the second annual meeting following the annual meeting at which such director was elected and until the election and qualification of his or her respective successor in office. The Board has set the size of the Board at six members and we currently have six members on our Board of Directors. There are no familial relationships among our directors or executive officers. The Board, upon the recommendation of the Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee, has nominated Alan Cohen, Matthew Messinger and Keith Pattiz to stand for election as Class I directors at the Annual Meeting, to hold office until the annual meeting of stockholders in 2021 and until their respective successors are duly elected and qualified or their earlier resignation or removal.

Each nominee has indicated to us that he will serve if elected. We do not anticipate that any nominee will be unable to stand for election, but, if that happens, your proxy will, if applicable, be voted in favor of another person nominated by the Board of Directors.

#### **Director Biographies**

Biographical information regarding each Class I director nominee proposed for election by the holders of common stock at the Annual Meeting follows. The age of each nominee is as of the date of the Annual Meeting. Class I Directors Elected by Holders of Common Stock (term expiring in 2021)

Name of Director Age Business Experience and Other Information

# Alan Cohen 82

Mr. Cohen has served as a director of the Company since 2012. Mr. Cohen is the Chairman of business advisory firms Abacus Advisors LLC and Alco Capital Group LLC.

Qualifications and Skills: Mr. Cohen has more than 30 years' experience working with businesses in all aspects of their management and operations, serving as a consultant and advisor to numerous Fortune 500 companies and many leading banks and financial institutions. Mr. Cohen is an expert in retail investments and intellectual property and has many years of experience in restructuring businesses. He has been an active participant in seminars on turnaround management and has lectured extensively on restructuring and asset-based lending. Mr. Cohen has served as a trustee, chief restructuring officer, and consultant in various Chapter 11 cases, state court proceedings, and out-of-court restructurings for companies including The Towers Financial Corporation, County Seat Stores, 47th Street Photo, Russ Togs and Aileen, Inc.

# Matthew Messinger

Mr. Messinger has been our President and CEO since 2013 and has served as a director of the Company since 2016.

Qualifications and Skills: Prior to joining the Company, Mr. Messinger served as the Executive Vice President and Director of Investment Management at Forest City Ratner Companies ("FCRC"), a wholly owned subsidiary of Forest City Enterprises ("FCE"), where he served for more than 18 years. In this role, Mr. Messinger led the New York Investment Committee of FCRC

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Name of Director

Age

**Business Experience and Other Information** 

and served on the Investment Committee and Executive Management Committee of FCE. Mr. Messinger brings extensive development, asset management, finance, strategic planning and tax credit structuring experience across a wide range of asset classes including retail, hotel, residential, office, arena and professional sports teams. Mr. Messinger is a graduate of Wesleyan University in Connecticut. He currently serves as co-chair of the board and on the finance and the real estate committees of the Children's Museum of Manhattan, and he is a member of the International Council of Shopping Centers (ICSC), Urban Land Institute (ULI), the Real Estate Board of New York (REBNY), the Low Income Housing Tax Credit Coalition, the New Markets Tax Credit Coalition, and the New York Hospitality Council.

Keith Pattiz

66

Mr. Pattiz has served as a director of the Company since 2013. Mr. Pattiz is a partner in the law firm of McDermott Will & Emery LLP, where he serves as head of the real estate group.

Qualifications and Skills: Mr. Pattiz has extensive experience in a wide range of real estate matters, including commercial leasing, financing, sales and acquisitions, hotel transactions and real estate workout matters. He has provided legal representation to a variety of clients, including major residential, office, hotel and shopping center developers, hotel operators, lending institutions and U.S. and foreign investors. Mr. Pattiz has been recognized in the Best Lawyers in America, Super Lawyers and Chambers USA.

Biographical information regarding our other directors, all of whom are Class II directors, is set forth below. The age of each director is as of the date of the Annual Meeting.

Class II Directors Elected by Holders of Common Stock (term expiring in 2020)

Name of Director

Α

42

**Business Experience and Other Information** 

Alexander C. Matina

Mr. Matina has served as a director of the Company since 2013 and is the Chairman of the Board. He is the Vice President of Investments for MFP Investors, LLC, the family office of

Michael F. Price, which has a value-investing focus across public and private markets. Mr. Matina also serves as a director of S&W Seed Company, a publicly traded agricultural company, and Papa Murphy's Holdings, a publicly traded restaurant franchisor. In addition, he also serves on the board of Crowheart Energy LLC, a private energy company with assets in Wyoming and Madava Financial, a private energy lender.

Qualifications and Skills: Mr. Matina brings a strong finance background to the Company, including experience with bankruptcies and private equity. Prior to joining MFP Investors, LLC in 2007, Mr. Matina served in various roles at Balance Asset Management, a multi-strategy hedge fund, and as a senior associate at Altus Capital Partners, a middle market private equity fund. He was previously a principal at 747 Capital, a private equity fund-of-funds, and a financial analyst at Salomon Smith Barney in the financial sponsors group of the investment banking division.

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Name of Director

Age

Business Experience and Other Information

in each firm's respective real estate department.

Mr. Citrin has served as a director of the Company since 2018. Mr. Citrin currently serves as Vice Chairman/Senior Advisor of Square Mile Capital Management LLC. Square Mile, which Mr. Citrin founded in 2006, is a private institutionally backed New York-based investment firm which focuses on real estate and real estate related opportunities. Mr. Citrin served as Square Mile's Co-Managing Principal until July 2017. In addition to his ongoing role on Square Mile's Board of Directors, Mr. Citrin serves on the Investment Committees for all of Square Mile's funds and investment vehicles. Prior to founding Square Mile, Mr. Citrin served as President of Blackacre Capital Management LLC which he cofounded in 1994. Blackacre (now Cerberus Institutional Real Estate) is the dedicated real estate arm of global investment firm Cerberus Capital Management LP. Prior to cofounding Blackacre, Mr. Citrin was a Managing Director at Oppenheimer & Co. Inc. where he served as head of the firm's Commercial Mortgage Investment Unit through which Oppenheimer conducted its commercial mortgage and real estate principal activities. From 1991 through 1993, Mr. Citrin served as a Vice President at First Boston (now Credit Suisse) where he was a founding member of the firm's Real Estate Principal Group, and from 1986 through 1991 Mr. Citrin was a Vice President in the Real Estate Investment Banking Unit of Chemical Bank (now JP Morgan Chase). From 1983 through 1986, Mr. Citrin worked at

Mr. Citrin currently serves as a Co-Chairman of the Board of Overseers of the Hood Museum of Art, and as a member of the Board of Directors of Tanger Factory Outlet Centers, Inc. (NYSE: SKT), the Real Estate Roundtable, the Urban Land Institute and the Board of Advisors of the Hospital for Special Surgery.

the New York law firms of Proskauer Rose LLP and Kelley Drye & Warren LLP as an attorney

Qualifications and Skills: Mr. Citrin has extensive experience in real estate investment and finance, with particular expertise in investment sourcing, structuring, asset management, workouts and capital formation.

B. Citrin 61

Jeffrey

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Joanne

Minieri

M.

Class II Director Elected by Holder of Special Stock (term expiring in 2020)

Name of Director Age Business Experience and Other Information

Ms. Minieri has served as a director of the Company since 2013. Ms. Minieri serves as the "Special Stock Director", who is elected by the holder of the Special Stock pursuant to our Certificate of Incorporation. She was appointed by Third Avenue, the holder of the Special Stock and a major investor in the Company, but is not affiliated with Third Avenue. She is an Executive Vice President of RXR Realty and the Chief Operating Officer of RXR Development

Services and RXR Construction and Development.

Qualifications and Skills: Ms. Minieri has extensive experience in real estate development, as well as a deep knowledge of accounting, particularly in the field of real estate. Prior to her position with RXR, Ms. Minieri served as the Deputy County Executive and Commissioner of Economic Development and Planning for Suffolk County from April 2012 until July 2016. Previously, Ms. Minieri served as President and Chief Operating Officer of Forest City Ratner Companies (FCRC), a wholly owned subsidiary of Forest City Enterprises. She originally joined FCRC as its Chief Financial Officer in 1995, and was promoted to Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer in 1998 and to President and Chief Operating Officer in 2007. Ms. Minieri is a certified public accountant.

THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS RECOMMENDS THAT YOU VOTE "FOR" THE ELECTION OF THE NOMINEES TO THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS 8

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#### **CORPORATE GOVERNANCE**

Governance Role of the Board of Directors

Our business and affairs are managed under the direction of the Board of Directors, which is our ultimate decision-making body, except with respect to those matters reserved for our stockholders. The Board establishes overall corporate policies, evaluates our chief executive officer and senior leadership team, and acts as an advisor and counselor to management. The Board also oversees our business strategy and planning, as well as the performance of management in executing our comprehensive business plan and managing our day-to-day operations.

# **Board Leadership Structure**

The offices of Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Company and Chief Executive Officer of the Company are separated. Mr. Matina has been appointed as our Chairman of the Board of Directors and Mr. Messinger is our Chief Executive Officer. We do not have a fixed policy with respect to the separation of the offices of the Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of the Company. We believe that the separation of these offices is currently appropriate and that it is in our best interests to make these determinations from time to time.

## Board Role in Oversight of Risk

The Board of Directors is responsible for overseeing our executive management team in the execution of its responsibilities and for assessing our approach to risk management. The Board exercises these responsibilities on an ongoing basis as part of its meetings and through the Transaction Committee and Audit Committee. Each member of the management team has direct access to the Board and the Transaction Committee and Audit Committee to ensure that all risk issues are frequently and openly communicated. The Board of Directors closely monitors the information it receives from management and provides oversight and guidance to our executive management team regarding the assessment and management of risk. For example, the Board regularly reviews our critical strategic, operational, legal and financial risks with management to set the tone and direction for ensuring appropriate risk taking within the business.

In addition, financial risks are overseen by our Audit Committee, which meets separately with representatives of our independent auditors to determine whether any material financial risks or any deficiencies in our internal controls over financial reporting have been identified and, if so, the executive management team's plans to rectify or mitigate these risks. The Audit Committee also oversees risks related to our financial statements, the financial reporting process and accounting matters.

Our Board and Audit Committee have access at all times to our management to discuss any matters of interest, including those related to risk. Those members of our executive management team who are most knowledgeable of the issues facing us also regularly attend Board and Audit Committee meetings to provide additional insight into items being discussed, including risk exposures. We believe that our Board leadership structure enables senior management to communicate identified risks to our Board and Audit Committee and affords a free flow of communication regarding risk identification and mitigation.

# Director Independence

The Board of Directors has determined that each member of the Board, other than Mr. Messinger, is "independent" in accordance with Section 803A of the NYSE American Company Guide.

#### Board of Directors Meetings and Attendance

The Board of Directors held five meetings during 2018. All of the directors attended at least 75% of the total of all meetings of the Board and Board committees on which they served during 2018. Each director is expected to attend annual meetings of stockholders and all of the directors attended last year's annual meeting.

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#### **Board Committees**

The Board has four committees: the Audit Committee; the Compensation Committee; the Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee and the Transaction Committee. Each of the committees operates under a written charter. A copy of the committee charters is available on our website at www.trinityplaceholdings.com under the Investor Relations tab and may also be obtained without charge by written request to Investor Relations, Trinity Place Holdings Inc., 340 Madison Avenue, Suite 3C, New York, New York 10173.

The current membership of each committee is as follows:

			Nominating and	
	Audit	Compensation	Corporate	Transaction
	Committee	Committee	Governance	Committee
			Committee	
Jeffrey B. Citrin	X			X
Alan Cohen	X	X	Chair	
Alexander C. Matina		Chair	X	X
Matthew Messinger				
Joanne M. Minieri	Chair	X		X
Keith Pattiz			X	Chair

#### **Audit Committee**

The Audit Committee is responsible for fulfilling the Board's responsibilities as they relate to our financial oversight functions such as accounting policies, internal controls and financial reporting practices. The Board has determined that each of Ms. Minieri and Mr. Citrin is an "audit committee financial expert," as that term is used in Item 407 of Regulation S-K promulgated under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (the "Exchange Act"). The Board has determined that each of the current members of the Audit Committee meets the criteria for independence set forth in Rule 10A-3 under the Exchange Act and satisfies the other Audit Committee membership requirements specified in Section 803B of the NYSE American Company Guide. The Audit Committee held four meetings during 2018. Compensation Committee

The Compensation Committee is responsible for the review and approval of executive officer compensation. The Compensation Committee has authority to review and approve corporate goals and objectives relevant to the compensation of our Chief Executive Officer, evaluates the performance of the Chief Executive Officer in light of those goals and objectives, and determines and approves the compensation level of the Chief Executive Officer based on this evaluation. The Compensation Committee also reviews director compensation and benefits for service on the Board and Board committees and recommends any changes to the Board as necessary.

The Compensation Committee also reviews, approves and, when appropriate, recommends to the Board for approval, incentive compensation plans and equity-based plans. This Committee also administers our incentive compensation plans and equity-based plans, including the designation of employees to whom awards are to be granted and the terms of the delegation of authority to the Chief Executive Officer to make grants, subject to the provisions of each plan. The Compensation Committee is authorized to retain the services of one or more executive compensation advisors to assist with the establishment and review of our compensation programs and related policies. In 2018, the Compensation Committee engaged FTI Consulting, Inc.'s compensation advisory practice ("FTI"), to provide market-based compensation data and to advise on industry trends and best practices, among other compensation and related matters. FTI reports directly to the Compensation Committee. Additional information regarding the Compensation Committee and its compensation consultant is provided below under "Compensation Discussion and Analysis." The Compensation Committee held two meetings during 2018.

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Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee

The Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee is responsible for making recommendations to our Board regarding candidates for directorships and committee composition. In addition, the Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee is responsible for overseeing our corporate governance practices and procedures, including our Code of Business Conduct and Ethics, and reporting and making recommendations to our Board concerning governance matters. The Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee held one meeting during 2018. Transaction Committee

The Transaction Committee is responsible for reviewing and evaluating our strategic plans; making recommendations to the Board regarding our strategic plans, reviewing, evaluating and approving property acquisitions and dispositions, debt and equity investments, financings and other potential transactions which may come to our attention from internal planning activities or external approaches to us; approving certain transactions with dollar values below specified thresholds; and serving as the pricing committee on corporate securities issuances and repurchases, in each case, in accordance with the parameters set forth in the Transaction Committee charter. The Transaction Committee held one meeting during 2018.

Compensation Committee Interlocks and Insider Participation

None of the directors who serve on our Compensation Committee has ever been employed by us. None of our executive officers serves or has served as a member of the board of directors, compensation committee or other board committee performing equivalent functions of any entity that has one or more executive officers serving on our Board of Directors or on our Compensation Committee.

**Director Nomination Process** 

The Board of Directors is responsible for nominating members for election to the Board of Directors and for filling vacancies on the Board of Directors that may occur between annual meetings of stockholders. The Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee is responsible for identifying, screening and recommending candidates to the Board of Directors for Board membership. When formulating its Board of Directors membership recommendations, the Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee may also consider advice and recommendations from others, including stockholders, as it deems appropriate.

Under the Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee charter, the Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee will develop criteria for evaluating prospective candidates to the Board and committees, including any specific minimum qualifications and any specific qualities or skills necessary for one or more directors to possess. Among such other criteria as the Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee may from time to time determine appropriate, when the Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee determine that expansion of the Board or replacement of a director, or the establishment or expansion of a committee, or replacement of a committee member, is necessary or appropriate, the Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee will conduct candidate interviews, which may be with members of management, consult with the candidate's associates and through other means determine a candidate's honesty, integrity, reputation in and commitment to the community, judgment, personality and thinking style, residence, willingness to devote the necessary time, potential conflicts of interest, independence, understanding of financial statements and issues and other matters of relevance to the Board or applicable committee, and the willingness and ability of the candidate to engage in meaningful and constructive discussion regarding Company issues. While diversity may contribute to this overall evaluation, it is not considered by the Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee as a separate or independent factor in identifying nominees for director. We may identify candidates through recommendations made by directors, senior management or other third parties. The Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee will consider director candidates recommended to the Board by stockholders during such times as we are actively considering appointing new directors. Candidates recommended by stockholders will be evaluated based on the same criteria described above.

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The Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee will recommend those individuals that they determine should be nominees for election or re-election to the Board at the annual meeting of stockholders or, if applicable, at a special meeting of stockholders, or otherwise appointed to the Board or any committee thereof. Stockholders desiring to suggest a candidate for consideration by the Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee must do so in accordance with our bylaws and the securities laws, and should send a letter to the attention of the Secretary of the Company, at our principal executive offices, 340 Madison Avenue, Suite 3C, New York, New York 10173, and include: (a) a statement that the writer is a stockholder (providing evidence if the person's shares are held in street name) and is proposing a candidate for consideration; (b) the name and contact information for the candidate; (c) a statement of the candidate's business and educational experience; (d) information regarding the candidate's qualifications to be a director, including but not limited to an evaluation of the factors discussed above which the Board would consider in evaluating a candidate; (e) information regarding any relationship or understanding between the proposing stockholder and the candidate; (f) information regarding potential conflicts of interest; and (g) a statement that the candidate is willing to be considered and willing to serve as a director if nominated and elected. Because of our small size and the limited need to seek additional directors, there is no assurance that all stockholder proposed candidates will be fully considered, that all candidates will be considered equally, or that the proponent of any candidate or the proposed candidate will be contacted by us or the Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee, and no undertaking to do so is implied by the willingness to consider candidates proposed by stockholders.

Review, Approval or Ratification of Transactions with Related Persons

The Board has adopted a written policy for the review and approval of any "related party transaction," which is defined under the policy as any transaction, arrangement or relationship, or any series of similar transactions, arrangements or relationships, in which we or any of our subsidiaries are or will be a participant, the aggregate amount involved will or may be expected to exceed \$120,000 in any fiscal year, and one of our executive officers, directors, director nominees (or their respective immediate family members), 5% stockholders or an entity controlled by any of the foregoing or in which any of the foregoing is employed, has or will have a direct or indirect interest, other than the following:

Any employment by us of an executive officer of the Company or any of our subsidiaries if (i) the related compensation is reported in our proxy statement under Item 402 of Regulation S-K (generally applicable to "named executive officers"); or (ii) the executive officer is not an immediate family member of another executive officer or director of the Company, the related compensation would be reported in our proxy statement under Item 402 of Regulation S-K if the executive officer was a "named executive officer," and our compensation committee or comparable body approved (or recommended that the Board approve) such compensation.

Any compensation paid to a member of the Board if the compensation is reported in our proxy statement under Item 402 of Regulation S-K.

Any transaction with another company at which a related party's only relationship is as (i) an employee other than an executive officer or director, (ii) a beneficial owner of less than 10%, together with his or her Immediate Family Members, of that company's outstanding equity, or (iii) in the case of partnerships, a limited partner, if the limited partner, together with his or her immediate family members, has an interest of less than 10% and the limited partner does not hold another position in the partnership.

Any charitable contribution, grant or endowment by us to a charitable organization, foundation or university at which a related party's only relationship is as an employee (other than an executive officer), if the aggregate amount involved does not exceed the greater of \$100,000 or two percent of the charitable organization's total revenues.

Any transaction where the related party's interest arises solely from the ownership of a class of our equity securities and all holders of that class of equity securities received the same benefit on a pro rata basis.

Indemnification and advancement of expenses made pursuant to our Certificate of Incorporation or Bylaws or pursuant to any agreement.

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Any proposed related party transaction will be reviewed and, if deemed appropriate, approved by the Audit Committee. When practicable, the review and approval will occur prior to entry into the transaction. If advance review and approval is not practicable, the Audit Committee will review, and, if deemed appropriate, ratify the transaction. In either case, the Audit Committee will take into account, among other factors deemed appropriate, whether the transaction is on terms no less favorable than terms generally available to an unrelated third party under the same or similar circumstances and the extent of the related party's interest in the transaction. The Board has also delegated to the Chair of the Audit Committee the authority to approve or ratify related party transactions, subject to reporting at the next Audit Committee meeting any such approval or ratification.

#### Transactions with Related Persons

There has been no transaction, and no transaction is currently proposed, in which we were or are to be a participant and the amount involved exceeds the lesser of \$120,000 or one percent of the average of our total assets at year end for the last two completed fiscal years, and in which any related person had or will have a direct or indirect material interest.

## **Director Compensation**

The Board has adopted the following director compensation program for its non-employee directors, comprised of (i) annual retainer fees and (ii) chair and committee membership fees:

**Annual Retainer Fees** 

\$53,333 in cash; and

φ33,333 m **cu**sh, unc

\$26,667 in shares of our common stock.

## Chair and Committee Membership Fees

Two-thirds of the chair and committee membership fees are paid in cash and one-third is paid in shares of common stock, as follows:

Mamban

Chair

	Chair	Member
	(\$)	(\$)
Board of Directors	\$ 15,000	_
Audit Committee	\$ 15,000	\$ 7,500
Compensation Committee	\$ 10,000	\$ 5,000
Nominating & Corporate Governance Committee	\$ 8,000	\$ 4,000
Transaction Committee	\$ 11,500	\$ 7,500

Prior to January 1, 2019, the cash portion of the above fees was paid in quarterly installments and the equity portion was payable on the date of each annual meeting of our stockholders for the purpose of electing directors, determined by dividing the amount of the fees by the closing share price of our common stock on the grant date.

Effective January 1, 2019, all compensation, including cash and shares, is payable on a quarterly basis in arrears, on the first business day of the next succeeding fiscal quarter. With respect to the equity portion of the fees, the grant date is the first business day of the next succeeding fiscal quarter, and the valuation for such grants is the closing price on the last trading day of the prior quarter.

Also effective January 1, 2019, directors may elect to receive shares of the Company's common stock in lieu of all of the cash portion of their fees; provided, that such election is made prior to January 1 of the applicable year. Once made, an election will be in effect for succeeding years, unless changed by the director.

Directors do not receive any additional compensation for attending board meetings or board committee meetings. All non-employee members of the Board of Directors are reimbursed for reasonable out-of-pocket costs and expenses incurred in attending meetings of the Board of Directors and its committees.

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Directors may elect to defer all, but not less than all, of the equity portion of their annual retainers and chair and committee fees until such time as the director leaves the Board in accordance with our Non-Employee Directors' Deferral Program (the "Deferral Plan") on an annual basis. In such case, the director will have a fully vested right to receive the deferred shares at the time that the director ceases to serve as a director. Directors will receive dividend equivalents with respect to the deferred shares, meaning that the directors will receive the right to receive additional shares in lieu of any dividend that would have been paid had the shares not been deferred, based on the stock price at the time the dividends are paid to stockholders. The additional deferred shares also will be paid at the same time the director ceases to serve as a director. As of December 31, 2018, the Company had not paid a dividend. As of December 31, 2018, 19,379 shares have been deferred under the Deferral Plan.

Shares of common stock, whether or not deferred, are granted to non-employee directors pursuant to and in accordance with the provisions of the Stock Incentive Plan, and deferrals are made pursuant to the Deferral Plan. Matthew Messinger, who is a director and an employee of the Company, does not receive any of the compensation described above.

During the fiscal year ended December 31, 2018, our non-employee directors received total compensation as shown in the following table.

	Fees		
	Earned or	Stock	Total
	Paid in	Awards	(\$)
	Cash	(\$)(1)	(Ψ)
	(\$)		
Jeffrey B. Citrin(2)	\$ 46,823	\$ 23,406	\$ 70,229
Alan Cohen	\$ 67,007	\$ 33,493	\$ 100,500
Alexander C. Matina	\$ 81,426	\$ 41,317	\$ 122,743
Joanne M. Minieri	\$ 71,676	\$ 35,819	\$ 107,495
Keith Pattiz	\$ 63,672	\$ 31,825	\$ 95,497

(1)

Based on the closing stock price on the grant date.

(2)

Mr. Citrin was appointed to the Board of Directors on April 24, 2018.

The table below shows the aggregate number of stock awards granted to our non-employee directors for the year ended December 31, 2018.

	Stock
	Awards
	(In
	Shares)(1)
Jeffrey B. Citrin(2)	3,548
Alan Cohen	4,940
Alexander C. Matina	6,094
Joanne M. Minieri	5,283
Keith Pattiz	4,694

(1)

Receipt of an aggregate of 14,336 shares was deferred under the Deferral Plan.

(2)

Mr. Citrin was appointed to the Board of Directors on April 24, 2018.

# Stock Ownership Guidelines for Directors

Stock ownership guidelines are a key vehicle for aligning the interests of our directors and the Company's stockholders. The stock ownership guidelines for non-employee directors adopted by our Board consist of owning common stock with a value equal to three times the annual cash Board retainer. Shares that count toward meeting these ownership guidelines include shares directly owned by the director; shares beneficially 14

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owned by the director, such as shares held in "street name" through a broker or shares held in trust; and unvested restricted stock or restricted stock units ("RSUs") that vest based on continued service. Directors have five years from the adoption of the policy or, if later, the date of their appointment to the Board, to come into compliance with the guidelines.

Securities Authorized for Issuance under Equity Compensation Plans

The following table sets forth certain information with respect to our equity compensation plans, which consisted of our Stock Incentive Plan and individually negotiated awards pursuant to employment agreements as of December 31, 2018. Our Stock Incentive Plan and the employment agreements pursuant to which the awards were issued were adopted and entered into, respectively, prior to the listing of our common stock on the NYSE American, and were not approved by our shareholders. To date, all awards have been issued in the form of RSUs.

Plan Category	Number of Securities to be Issued Upon Exercise of Outstanding Options, Warrants and Rights (a)	Weighted-Average Exercise Price of Outstanding Options, Warrants and Rights (b)	Number of Securities Remaining Available for Future Issuance Under Equity Compensation Plans (Excluding Securities Reflected in Column (a)) (c)
Stock Incentive Plan	154,500	_	340,760
Individually negotiated awards	1,227,787(1)	_	30,000(2)
Total	1,382,287	_	370,760

- (1) Includes RSUs issued pursuant to the 2013 employment agreement, as amended in 2015, between the Company and Matthew Messinger. See "Executive Compensation Compensation of Matthew Messinger, President and Chief Executive Officer".
- (2)
  RSUs that may become issuable pursuant to the employment agreement between the Company and Matthew
  Messinger. See "Executive Compensation Compensation of Matthew Messinger, President and Chief Executive Officer."

#### Communications with the Board of Directors

Any interested parties desiring to communicate with the Board of Directors regarding the Company may directly contact such directors by delivering such correspondence to such directors, or the entire Board, in care of the Corporate Secretary at Trinity Place Holdings Inc., 340 Madison Avenue, Suite 3C, New York, New York 10173. The Audit Committee of the Board of Directors has established procedures for the receipt, retention and treatment of complaints received by us regarding accounting, internal controls and auditing matters and the confidential, anonymous submission by our employees of concerns regarding questionable accounting or auditing matters. Persons wishing to communicate with the Audit Committee may do so by writing in care of the Chairman, Audit Committee, Trinity Place Holdings Inc., 340 Madison Avenue, Suite 3C, New York, New York 10173 or to our outside legal counsel at Kramer Levin Naftalis & Frankel LLP, Attn.: Managing Attorney re Trinity Place Holdings Inc., 1177 Avenue of the Americas, New York, New York 10036.

**Outside Advisors** 

Our Board of Directors and Board Committees, other than the Transaction Committee, may retain outside advisors and consultants of their choosing at our expense.

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Code of Ethics

We maintain a code of ethics applicable to our principal executive officer and senior financial and professional personnel, including our principal financial officer, principal accounting officer or controller and persons performing similar functions. Our Code of Business Conduct and Ethics is posted on our website at

www.trinityplaceholdings.com under the Investor Relations tab. In the event we have any amendments to or waivers from any provision of our Code of Business Conduct and Ethics applicable to our principal executive officer, principal financial officer, principal accounting officer or controller, or persons performing similar functions, we intend to satisfy the disclosure requirement under Item 5.05 of Form 8-K by posting such information on our website. Section 16(a) Beneficial Ownership Reporting Compliance

Section 16(a) of the Exchange Act requires our directors and executive officers and all persons who own more than 10% of a registered class of our equity securities to file reports of ownership and changes in ownership with the SEC. The directors, executive officers and greater than 10% common stockholders are required to furnish the Company with copies of all Section 16(a) forms they file. Based solely on a review of the copies of such forms received by the Company and representations from certain reporting persons, we believe that during the year ended December 31, 2018 all filing requirements were satisfied, except for one Form 4 that was filed late with respect to one transaction reporting the purchase of shares of common stock on behalf of our director Jeffrey B. Citrin and one Form 4 that was filed late with respect to two transactions reporting the exercise of subscription rights in the Company's prior rights offerings by our director Keith Pattiz.

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Report of the Audit Committee

The following report of the Audit Committee does not constitute soliciting material and should not and will not be deemed filed or incorporated by reference into any other Company filing under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended (the "Securities Act"), or the Exchange Act, except to the extent the Company specifically incorporates this report by reference therein.

The Audit Committee is responsible for fulfilling the Board's responsibilities as they relate to overseeing our accounting and financial reporting processes and the audits of our financial statements, monitoring the integrity of our financial statements, monitoring compliance with legal and regulatory requirements, and monitoring the independence, qualifications and performance of the independent auditors. Management has the primary responsibility for the preparation, presentation and integrity of our financial statements, accounting and financial reporting principles, internal controls, and procedures designed to ensure compliance with accounting standards, applicable laws and regulations. In fulfilling its oversight responsibilities, the Audit Committee has reviewed and discussed the audited financial statements with management.

The Audit Committee meets in executive session regularly with BDO USA, LLP, our independent registered public accounting firm. The Audit Committee has discussed with BDO USA, LLP those matters required to be discussed by the applicable requirements of the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board, or PCAOB, including the matters described in the statement on Auditing Standards No. 16, as amended, as adopted by the PCAOB.

The Audit Committee has received the written disclosures and the letter from BDO USA, LLP, as required by applicable requirements of the PCAOB, regarding BDO USA, LLP's communications with the Audit Committee concerning independence, and the Audit Committee has discussed with BDO USA, LLP its independence. Based on the Audit Committee's review of and discussions regarding our audited consolidated financial statements and our internal control over financial reporting with management, our internal auditors and the independent registered public accounting firm and the other reviews and discussions with the independent registered public accounting firm referred to in the preceding paragraph, subject to the limitations on the Audit Committee's roles and responsibilities described above and in the Audit Committee charter, the Audit Committee recommended to the Board of Directors that our audited consolidated financial statements be included in our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2018 for filing with the SEC.

Respectfully submitted, Joanne M. Minieri, Chair Jeffrey B. Citrin Alan Cohen 17

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# **EXECUTIVE OFFICERS**

Biographical information regarding each of our executive officers follows. The age of each executive officer is as of the date of the Annual Meeting.

Name	Age	Business Experience and Other Information
	Age	Business Experience and Other Information
Matthew Messinger President and Chief Executive Officer	47	See Election of Directors above.
Steven Kahn Chief Financial Officer	53	Mr. Kahn has been our Chief Financial Officer since 2015.  Qualifications and Skills: Prior to joining the Company, Mr. Kahn served as the Chief Financial Officer and Treasurer of United Realty Trust Incorporated, a public non-traded real estate investment trust, or REIT, from 2014 to 2015; and as SVP Director of Financial Reporting and Tax at SL Green Realty Corp (NYSE:SLG), a listed REIT, from 1999 to 2013. Mr. Kahn served as a senior manager at PricewaterhouseCoopers, LLP, specializing in real estate, from January 1998 through November 1999 and in a similar capacity at Deloitte & Touche LLP from 1989 through January 1998. Mr. Kahn is a certified public accountant.
Richard G. Pyontek Chief Accounting Officer, Treasurer and Secretary	51	Mr. Pyontek has been our Chief Accounting Officer since 2015. Mr. Pyontek served as Chief Financial Officer of the Company from 2012 until 2015. Mr. Pyontek served as Director of Accounting and Reporting for the Company from 2011 until his election as Chief Financial Officer.  Qualifications and Skills: Before joining Syms Corp., our predecessor, in 2011, Mr. Pyontek served as Director of Accounting and Reporting at Ashley Stewart, Inc., a women's clothing retailer, during the time of its bankruptcy filing and turnaround from 2009 to 2011; as Controller at The Vitamin Shoppe, a retailer of health and nutrition supplements, from 2005 to 2008; and as Director of Finance at Party City Corporation, a retailer of party supplies and gifts, from 2003 to 2005. Earlier in his career, Mr. Pyontek held senior accounting and reporting roles at Linens 'n Things and at KPMG LLP. Mr. Pyontek is a

certified public accountant.

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#### **EXECUTIVE COMPENSATION**

Compensation Discussion and Analysis

This section discusses the principles underlying the material components of our executive compensation program for our executive officers named in the "Summary Compensation Table" below and the factors relevant to an analysis of the compensatory policies and decisions. These individuals, to whom we refer to collectively as our "named executive officers" or "NEOs" during 2018 were:

Matthew Messinger, President and Chief Executive Officer;

Steven Kahn, Chief Financial Officer; and

Richard G. Pyontek, Chief Accounting Officer, Treasurer and Secretary.

#### **Executive Summary**

Trinity was active in the real estate market in 2018 to bolster its positioning and continue to establish its healthy business operations. The following transactions and operational accomplishments attest to the significant progress made in the past year:

Completed the acquisition of a newly built 105-unit, 12-story apartment building located at 237 11th Street in Park Slope, Brooklyn, New York for a purchase price of \$81.2 million, excluding approximately \$0.7 million in closing costs. The acquisition was funded through acquisition financing of \$67.8 million and cash on hand. The residential portion of the property is substantially leased to 78% occupancy;

Completed the construction of the foundation at the 77 Greenwich Street development project, as well as the first nine stories of the superstructure (the first 35 stories through April 29, 2019). The project continues to be on schedule and on budget;

Continued to make progress on the construction of the core and shell for the NYC School Construction Authority (the "SCA"). We anticipate delivering their condominium to them in the second half of 2019, as originally scheduled, and within budget. We will continue to receive monthly payments from the SCA until we turn their space over to them;

Improved occupancy at the Berkley in Williamsburg, Brooklyn to 96.8% despite the anticipated shutdown of the L-Train;

In negotiations on approximately 21,000 square feet of new leasing at the Shoppes at Forest Hill in West Palm Beach, Florida, all of which have since been executed in 2019;

Extended lease/license agreements with LensCrafters and Restoration Hardware in Paramus, New Jersey; and

Increased our line of credit by \$1.75 million to \$12.75 million, reduced the rate by 200 basis points and extended the maturity to February 2020.

# Features of Our Executive Compensation Program

Our executive compensation program is designed to provide a total compensation package intended to attract and retain high-caliber executive officers and employees, and to incentivize employee contributions consistent with our corporate objectives and stockholder interests. Each component of compensation plays a role in supporting our compensation goals and objectives. Our program consists of the following principal components:

Base Salary: Fixed cash compensation to recognize ongoing performance of job responsibilities and to provide a necessary tool in attracting and retaining executives.

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Annual Cash Bonus: Variable cash incentive to reward the achievement of short-term corporate objectives and individual contributions on an annual basis.

Time-Based Restricted Stock Unit Award: Equity-based incentive structured to support the retention of executives, while subjecting recipients to the same market fluctuations as stockholders and thereby motivating management to create long-term stockholder value.

The Company succeeded to the operations of its predecessor, which transitioned out of bankruptcy in 2012, and in 2013, Mr. Messinger was hired to lead the reorganization of the Company and to maximize value for creditors and shareholders. These goals were accomplished as the Company satisfied the final obligations under the bankruptcy plans in March 2016. During that highly risky and uncertain period in the Company's history, Mr. Messinger received most of his compensation in the form of performance-based equity awards. Additional context regarding those historical compensation determinations are described below under the section titled "Historical Context to Company Operations and CEO Compensation."

The following table highlights key features of our executive compensation program. We believe these practices promote good governance and serve the interests of our stockholders.

What we do	What we don't do
Directly align pay with performance	X No excise tax gross-up provisions
Competitive assessment of executive compensation program to a comparable group of peer companies	X No guaranteed cash incentives, or salary increases for executive officers
Balanced mix of cash and equity compensation	X No excessive perquisites or other benefits
Independent compensation consultant	X No hedging of our equity securities
Robust stock ownership requirements	X No pledging of our equity securities
Clawback policy	X No repricing of stock options

# 2018 "Say on Pay" Results

Our last advisory "say-on-pay" vote was held at our 2018 annual stockholders meeting and received strong support from our stockholders, with a substantial majority of our stockholders (94.2% of the votes cast) voting to approve the compensation of our named executive officers described in our 2018 proxy statement. Our Compensation Committee considered the results of the 2018 vote and has continued our compensation program design which it believes embodies shareholder-friendly practices.

#### **Key Compensation Decisions**

Our focus has been and continues to be to maintain a strong link between our NEOs' compensation and the Company's performance. The Compensation Committee, in consultation with our independent compensation consultant, reviewed the Company's short and long-term performance and reviewed a comprehensive analysis of pay levels and

compensation programs at peer companies. Based on the results of this analysis, our Compensation Committee made the following key decisions to ensure that our Company's compensation program appropriately reflects our performance accomplishments:

Pay Element Key Decisions

Base Salary

2018 CEO base salary was unchanged, while the other NEOs' salaries were adjusted based on an assessment of company and individual performance and to better align them with the peer group.

2019 NEO base salaries were unchanged.

The annual bonus opportunity is designed to drive achievement of annual financial and operational results and key strategic activities that are linked to short-term company goals in relation to long-term strategy. Individual awards are determined by the Compensation Committee based on both company

and individual performance.

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Annual

Cash Bonus

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Pay Element Key Decisions

For 2018, the Compensation Committee determined to award annual cash bonuses to the NEOs

at similar levels as the prior year.

The structure of the 2019 bonus program remains the same as 2018.

The equity incentive program is designed to directly align key executives' interests with building

Time-Based Restricted Stock Unit Awards shareholder value and includes grants of time vested awards. Based on the performance and future growth path of the Company, the Committee determined appropriate levels of annual time-based RSU grants for its NEOs, other than the CEO, for 2018. Our CEO's awards were granted in accordance with the terms of his 2013 employment agreement, as amended in 2015.

RSUs vest ratably over a three-year period for the CEO and two-year period for the other NEOs,

subject to continued service.

Executive Compensation Philosophy and Objectives

Objectives of Our Compensation Program

The Company's executive compensation philosophy is designed to accomplish the following objectives:

To attract, retain and motivate a high-quality executive management team capable of creating long-term stockholder value in the highly competitive New York city market;

To provide compensation opportunities that are competitive with the prevailing market, and create a strong alignment between management and stockholder interests;

To achieve an appropriate balance between risk and reward in our compensation programs that does not incentivize unnecessary or excessive risk-taking; and

To maintain compensation and corporate governance practices that support our goal to deliver sustained, superior returns to stockholders.

In order to achieve these objectives, we provide a comprehensive and market-based compensation program to the executive officers that includes both fixed and variable amounts, the components of which are described in more detail below under "Elements of Executive Officer Compensation."

How We Determine Executive Compensation

The Compensation Committee, which consists of three independent directors, determines compensation for our NEOs. The Committee exercises independent discretion with respect to executive compensation matters and administers our equity incentive programs, including reviewing and approving equity grants to our NEOs pursuant to the Stock Incentive Plan.

In making its compensation decisions, the Compensation Committee evaluates the Company's performance and the performance of the Chief Executive Officer and, together with the Chief Executive Officer, assesses the individual performance of the other NEOs. The Compensation Committee does not set specific targets for compensation levels but instead reviews each element of compensation independently and determines the appropriate amount for each element for each NEO, as discussed below. The Compensation Committee also reviews market-based compensation data provided by its compensation consultant, as described in greater detail below in "Engagement of Compensation Consultant."

**Engagement of Compensation Consultant** 

The Compensation Committee is authorized to retain the services of one or more executive compensation advisors, in its discretion, to assist with the establishment and review of our compensation programs and related policies. In 2018, the Compensation Committee engaged FTI's compensation advisory practice to provide market-based compensation

data and to advise on industry trends and best practices.

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The Compensation Committee believes that for our compensation to be effective, it must be competitive with other real estate companies with which we may compete for executive talent. The Compensation Committee uses industry peer group data as one element of assessing and determining pay for our executive officers.

With assistance from FTI, the Compensation Committee undertook a comprehensive review of our peer group of companies with the goal of evaluating the competitiveness of the Company's executive compensation program. The peer group was selected based on various criteria considered by the Compensation Committee, including industry (public REITs, and where appropriate, multifamily, and/or diversified REITs and real estate operating companies), size (defined by equity market capitalization and total enterprise value), New York City presence, significant development projects and growth strategy. As a result of this peer group review and evaluation, while being mindful of best practices for selecting a peer set, the Compensation Committee selected the peer group shown below. FTI noted in its peer group recommendation that the Company has unique characteristics compared to the peers and broader industry that are not directly captured in its equity market capitalization and total enterprise value: (1) the Company's most significant asset is a development project which adds a degree of complexity that may not be matched at a number of its peers, (2) the recent completion by the Company of its payment and other obligations under the plan of reorganization of its predecessor and (3) the Company's transition to focus on growing its operating platform through new investment opportunities, currently primarily focused on multifamily properties in New York City. For 2018, our peer group\* included the following 16 Real Estate Companies:

Armada Hoffler Properties, Inc. Pennsylvania Real Estate Investment Trust

BRT Apartments Corp. Preferred Apartment Communities, Inc.

CatchMark Timber Trust, Inc. RPT Realty

Cedar Realty Trust, Inc.

Tejon Ranch Co.

Clipper Realty Inc. UMH Properties, Inc.

Getty Realty Corp. Urstadt Biddle Properties Inc.

Hersha Hospitality Trust Wheeler Real Estate Investment Trust, Inc.

Independence Realty Trust, Inc. Whitestone REIT

~

Forestar Group Inc. was removed from the peer group as it was acquired by

D.R. Horton, Inc. in October 2017

The Compensation Committee uses industry data as one tool in assessing and determining pay for our NEOs. Peer group data is intended to provide the Compensation Committee with insight into the overall market pay levels, market trends, best governance practices and industry performance. The compensation analysis for the peer group provided an

overview of typical compensation components (e.g., base salaries, annual bonuses and long-term equity incentives), as well as the range of compensation levels by position, in each case, generally found within the relevant peer group. Stock Ownership Guidelines

The Board has adopted stock ownership guidelines for our CEO, which consists of owning common stock with a value equal to five times his annual base salary. Shares that count toward meeting these ownership guidelines include shares directly owned; shares beneficially owned, such as shares held in "street name" through a broker or shares held in trust; and unvested restricted stock or RSUs that vest based on continued service. The CEO has five years from the adoption of the policy to come into compliance with the guidelines and is currently in compliance. The Board has adopted a policy expressing the expectation that each executive other than the CEO shall, over a reasonable period of time, accumulate a meaningful holding of Company shares relative to his or her base salary.

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Anti-Hedging Policy; Anti-Pledging Policy

The Company's insider trading policy prohibits transactions designed to limit or eliminate economic risks to our NEOs from owning the Company's common stock, such as transactions involving options, puts, calls, or other derivative securities tied to the Company's common stock. Our insider trading policy also prohibits the pledging of Company stock, including use as collateral for a margin loan, by directors, officers, employees, and consultants of the Company and its subsidiaries.

#### Clawback Policy

The Board has adopted a clawback policy which generally requires reimbursement of amounts paid under performance provisions, in the case of cash incentives and performance-based RSUs, if amounts were paid or shares vested based on financial results that subsequently become subject to certain "mandatory" restatements due to misconduct that would have led to lower payments or forfeiture of all or a portion of shares subject to an award. Elements of Executive Officer Compensation

The following is a discussion of the primary elements of 2018 compensation for each of our NEOs. Base Salaries

Base salaries are approved and periodically reviewed by the Compensation Committee. No formulaic base salary increases are provided to our NEOs, although the Compensation Committee may adjust base salaries in connection with its periodic review. The actual base salaries paid to our NEOs during 2018 are set forth in the "Summary Compensation Table" below. We believe that these salary levels provide appropriate levels of fixed income based on the background, qualifications and skill set of each executive.

For 2018, the Compensation Committee assessed each NEO's base salary in the context of (i) salaries paid at similar positions within our peer group and (ii) individual performance. Based on this assessment, salaries were adjusted as summarized below. While the Company does not target any particular peer group percentile for salaries, or any other compensation element, the Compensation Committee does factor peer group salaries into the overall decision-making process. NEO base salaries were unchanged for 2019 (in comparison to 2018).

The following table sets forth the 2018 and 2019 base salaries for each of our NEOs:

Executive	2018 Base	2019 Base
Executive	Salary	Salary
Matthew Messinger	\$ 750,000	\$ 750,000
Steven Kahn	\$ 340,000	\$ 340,000
Richard Pyontek	\$ 172,500	\$ 172,500

#### Cash Bonuses

Our cash bonus program is designed to attract and retain executive talent and incentivize executives to achieve corporate and individual goals. During 2018, our NEOs were eligible for annual cash bonus payments based on the Compensation Committee's review of the Company's and each NEO's individual performance.

In reviewing corporate performance, the Committee considers various measures including the extent to which strategic and business plan goals are met, levels of occupancy in owned residential properties, progress toward development deliveries, lease or sale of properties and balance sheet management, including, execution of capital raising goals.

In reviewing individual performance, the members of the Compensation Committee meet with the Chief Executive Officer annually at the beginning of the year to discuss both individual and corporate priorities for the current year. At that same meeting, the members of the Compensation Committee meet to conduct a review of the Chief Executive Officer's performance and contribution to Company goals over the past year. This evaluation is shared with the Chief Executive Officer and is considered by the Compensation

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Committee in establishing the Chief Executive Officer's compensation. With respect to the other Named Executive Officers, the members of the Compensation Committee receive a performance assessment and compensation recommendation from the Chief Executive Officer.

The Compensation Committee does not give specific weight to any particular criterion or performance metric, when determining the levels of annual bonus payouts for each of the Named Executive Officers. Instead, it considers the performance assessment and compensation recommendation from the Chief Executive Officer (although the CEO does not make recommendations pertaining to his own compensation) and exercises its own judgment based on various subjective performance criteria, including contributions to corporate performance, successful completion of projects, the degree to which teamwork and corporate values were fostered and other leadership accomplishments, to determine an appropriate amount of cash bonus for each executive.

For 2018, the Committee determined to pay the following annual cash bonuses to our NEOs during the first week in January 2019:

Executive 2018 Bonus (\$)

Matthew Messinger \$ 500,000 Steven Kahn \$ 140,000 Richard Pyontek \$ 55,000 Long-Term Equity Incentives

The goals of our long-term, equity-based awards are to incentivize and reward increases in long-term stockholder value and to align the interests of our NEOs with the interests of our stockholders.

For 2018, the Compensation Committee approved restricted stock unit awards for our NEOs, which enable our executive officers to establish or augment meaningful equity stakes in the Company, thus directly aligning the interests of our NEOs with those of our stockholders. We believe that these awards enable us to deliver competitive compensation to the executive officers at levels sufficient to attract and retain top talent within our executive officer ranks.

In determining the number of restricted stock units to be awarded to our NEOs, other than our CEO, the Compensation Committee analyzed the role and responsibilities of the individual, individual performance history, contractual agreements, if any, and prevailing market practices. Annual equity awards were not determined based on the attainment of any particular individual or company-level performance goals, but the Compensation Committee considered our corporate performance in determining the appropriate values. The number of RSUs awarded to our CEO was specified by our employment agreement with him.

Based on this assessment, the Compensation Committee approved grants of restricted stock units, as follows:

	2018 RSU	2018 RSU
Executive	Award	Award
	(#)	(\$)
Matthew Messinger(1)	180,000(2)	\$ 771,900
Steven Kahn(3)	25,000	\$ 107,500
Richard Pyontek(3)	5,000	\$ 21,500

(1)

Mr. Messinger's award of 30,000 RSUs was granted on December 31, 2018 and vests ratably on each of the next three anniversaries of the grant date, and his award of 150,000 RSUs was granted on January 3, 2019 and vests ratably on each of January 1, 2020, January 1, 2021 and January 1, 2022. RSU award value is based on the grant date stock price.

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(2)

Based on his 2015 amended employment agreement, Mr. Messinger is contractually entitled to receive an award of 30,000 RSUs per year until 2019.

(3)

Messrs. Kahn and Pyontek's awards were granted on January 3, 2019 for 2018 performance and vest ratably on each of January 1, 2020 and January 1, 2021. RSU award value is based on the grant date stock price.

The Grants of Plan-Based Awards table below includes Mr. Messinger's 2018 award of 30,000 RSUs shown above. SEC disclosure rules provide that only those equity awards granted in 2018 need to be disclosed in the Grants of Plan-Based Awards table. As such, Messrs. Kahn and Pyontek's 2018 RSU awards and Mr. Messinger's award of 150,000 RSUs, which were granted on January 3, 2019, are shown in the table above because they related to 2018 performance and not in the Grants of Plan-Based Awards table because they were granted in 2019. Employee Benefits

Our full-time employees, including our NEOs, are eligible to participate in health and welfare benefit plans, which provide medical, dental, prescription, vision, short-term and long-term disability, life insurance and other health benefits. We believe that these benefits are a key component of a comprehensive compensation package, providing essential protections to our NEOs and enhancing the overall desirability and competitiveness of our total rewards package.

Our employees, including our NEOs, who satisfy certain eligibility requirements may participate in our 401(k) retirement savings plan. Under the 401(k) plan, eligible employees may elect to contribute pre-tax amounts to the plan, up to a statutorily prescribed limit, and we match a pre-determined portion of such contribution. We believe that providing a vehicle for tax-preferred retirement savings through our 401(k) plan adds to the overall desirability of our executive compensation package and further incentivizes our employees, including our NEOs, in accordance with our compensation policies.

Severance and Change in Control Benefits

As described more fully below in the sections entitled "— Narrative Disclosure to Summary Compensation Table and Grants of Plan-Based Awards in 2018 Table" and "— Potential Payments Upon Termination or Change in Control," we have entered into employment agreements with our NEOs that provide for various severance and change in control benefits and other terms and conditions of employment. We believe that the protections contained in these employment agreements will help ensure the day-to-day stability necessary to enable our executives to properly focus their attention on their duties and responsibilities with the Company and will provide security with regard to some of the most uncertain events relating to continued employment, thereby limiting concern and uncertainty and promoting productivity.

Historical Context to Company Operations and CEO Compensation

In 2012, as the Company embarked on its plan of reorganization post-bankruptcy, it faced tremendous headwinds in terms of business viability, its ability to repay creditors and create shareholder value. In October 2013, Mr. Messinger was hired as the CEO to lead the Company during this uncertain period, with a view toward stabilizing and enhancing the Company. Mr. Messinger joined the Company with almost two decades of extensive development, asset management, finance and tax credit structuring experience across a wide range of real estate related asset classes and was tasked with formulating and executing the Company's long-term strategy.

With a view towards aligning the CEO's interests with those of the Company's creditors, Mr. Messinger's compensation was structured to ensure cash conservation for the Company by providing the majority of his compensation in the form of equity awards, at a time when the Company's equity was highly illiquid, thinly traded and risky with no guarantee that the equity awards would result in meaningful value. His equity awards were structured so that most shares granted to him were only eligible to be earned based upon achieving key milestones in order to pay off all creditors and eventually operate free of creditor claims.

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The following table provides details of equity awards granted to Mr. Messinger under his employment agreement prior to the Company satisfying the final obligations under the bankruptcy plan in March 2016:

prior to the ex	ompany sac	siying the init	Grant Date	is under the outline	auptey plan in March 2010.	
Date of Grant	Years Vesting	Shares Granted	Fair Value per share	Grant Date Fair Value	Performance contingencies for award	
11/6/2013	0	250,000	\$ 5.18	\$ 1,295,000	Granted upon the effectiveness of the Company's filing of an Amended and Restated Certificate of Incorporation	
3/31/2014	3	476,190	\$ 6.25	\$ 2,976,188	Contingent upon delivering (i) a favorable resolution on payment/deferral of payment to Syms and Filene's and (ii) a credible plan for the development, lease or sale of Westbury, NY and Paramus, NJ properties	
3/31/2014	3	363,095	\$ 6.25	\$ 2,269,344	Contingent upon delivering a credible plan for the development, lease or sale of Trinity Place property	
12/31/2014	3	363,095	\$ 7.00	\$ 2,541,665	Contingent upon delivering (i) a favorable resolution on payment/deferral of certain claims of Filene's and (ii) a credible plan for the development, lease or sale of West Palm Beach, FL and Secaucus, NJ properties	
3/31/2015	3	363,095	\$ 7.05	\$ 2,559,820	No contingency	
1/28/2016	3	363,095	\$ 5.98	\$ 2,171,308	Contingent upon payments of the Initial Majority Shareholder and Subsequent Majority Shareholder by December 31, 2015; while conditions were not met at that time, the award was granted as Company had sufficient cash on hand to make the payments which were ultimately made at a discounted amount in March 2016	
1/28/2016	5	250,000	\$ 5.98	\$ 1,495,000	No contingency	
1/28/2016	3	541,074	\$ 5.98	\$ 3,235,623	Granted to maintain CEO's proportionate ownership interest (per employment agreement), concurrent with the Common Stock Rights Offering in December 2015, which resulted in issuance of additional shares of Company's common stock.	

Mr. Messinger's employment with the Company has been and continues to be critical to the Company's success. Since his hiring, Mr. Messinger has completed, among others, the following two crucial tasks:

Led the Company in negotiating favorable resolutions in respect of outstanding claims, culminating in significant savings for the Company and a general unsecured claims satisfaction; and

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Led the Company in the sale of various assets, including the Company's former headquarters, and in a number of transactions at prices substantially greater than initially anticipated.

Together, these actions resulted in both the successful repayment of all the Company's claimholders, as well as increased residual value for the Company's stockholders. Due to Mr. Messinger's efforts in steering Trinity through the post-bankruptcy reorganization, the Company has re-commenced accounting as a going concern, listed its shares on the NYSE American market and been added to the Russell 2000. In 2018, he continued to lead the company through its long-term strategic plan by continuing the development of the Company's most significant asset, 77 Greenwich Street, a former Syms site located in downtown Manhattan, redeveloping the Company's remaining properties to increase their value, raising equity and debt capital and commencing new investment activity, including the acquisition of 237 11th, a newly constructed residential multifamily apartment building in Brooklyn, New York.

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In addition, Mr. Messinger has continually exhibited his commitment to the Company through personal share purchases in April 2015, December 2015, April 2017, May 2017, December 2017, February 2018, August 2018, September 2018, November 2018, December 2018, January 2019 and February 2019, and has never sold any of his Trinity stock.

# Tax Implications

Section 162(m) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended (the "Code") (as amended by the Tax Cut and Jobs Act of 2017) imposes a \$1,000,000 cap on federal income tax deductions for compensation paid to our NEOs during any fiscal year. Our Compensation Committee considers these requirements when designing compensation programs for our NEOs and remains cognizant of the changes to federal tax law, in particular the elimination of the exception to the deductibility limit for qualifying "performance-based compensation" for taxable years beginning after December 31, 2017. However, the Compensation Committee does not necessarily limit executive compensation to the amount deductible under Section 162(m). Rather, it considers the available alternatives and acts to preserve the deductibility of compensation in its discretion to the extent reasonably practicable and consistent with its other compensation objectives. The Compensation Committee may, in its discretion, approve compensation that will not meet these requirements when it determines that such payments are in the best interests of the Company and our stockholders, such as to ensure competitive levels of total compensation for the NEOs.

# **Compensation Committee Report**

The following report of the Compensation Committee does not constitute soliciting material and should not and will not be deemed filed or incorporated by reference into any other Company filing under the Securities Act or the Exchange Act, except to the extent the Company specifically incorporates this report by reference therein. The Compensation Committee has reviewed and discussed the Compensation Discussion and Analysis required by Item 402(b) of Regulation S-K with management and with the Committee's independent compensation consultant. Based on this review and discussions, the Compensation Committee recommended to the Board of Directors that the Compensation Discussion and Analysis be included in this Proxy Statement.

Alexander C. Matina, Chair

Alan Cohen

Joanne Minieri

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**Summary Compensation Table** 

The following table sets forth information concerning all compensation awarded to, earned by or paid to our named executive officers, for all services rendered in all capacities to us and our subsidiaries for the years ended December 31, 2018, 2017 and 2016:

Name and Principal Position	Fiscal Year	Salary	Bonus	Stock Award(1)	All Other Compensation	Total
Matthew Messinger President and Chief Executive Officer	2018	\$ 750,000	\$ 500,000	\$ 126,900	\$ 12,540(2)	\$ 1,389,440
	2017	\$ 750,000	\$ 500,000	\$ 208,500	\$ 12,836(3)	\$ 1,471,336
	2016	\$ 750,000	\$ 500,000	\$ 7,359,431	\$ 12,636(4)	\$ 8,622,067
Steven Kahn Chief Financial Officer	2018	\$ 340,000	\$ 140,000	\$ 417,000	\$ 12,780(5)	\$ 909,780
	2017	\$ 290,000	\$ 245,000	\$ 63,910	\$ 12,699(6)	\$ 611,609
	2016	\$ 290,000	\$ 120,000	\$ —	\$ 12,499(7)	\$ 422,499
Richard G. Pyontek Chief Accounting Officer, Treasurer and Secretary	&#</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr></tbody></table>					