

HIGHWOODS PROPERTIES INC  
Form DEF 14A  
April 17, 2014

UNITED STATES  
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON, DC 20549

SCHEDULE 14A

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

Filed by the Registrant

Filed by a Party other than the Registrant

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 Section 240.14a-12

HIGHWOODS PROPERTIES, INC.  
(Name of Registrant as Specified in its Charter)

Payment of Filing Fee (Check the appropriate box):

No fee required.

Fee computed on table below per Exchange Act Rules 14a-6(i)(4) 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:
-



HIGHWOODS PROPERTIES, INC.  
3100 Smoketree Court, Suite 600  
Raleigh, North Carolina 27604

---

NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING OF STOCKHOLDERS  
To Be Held On May 30, 2014

---

April 17, 2014

Dear Stockholders:

You are invited to attend the annual meeting of stockholders of Highwoods Properties, Inc. on Friday, May 30, 2014, at 11:00 a.m., in Suite 201 of our Smoketree Tower building, which is located at 3100 Smoketree Court, Raleigh, North Carolina 27604. The principal purposes of this meeting are to elect eight directors, ratify the appointment of Deloitte & Touche LLP as our independent auditor for 2014, vote on an advisory proposal regarding executive compensation and transact such other business as may properly come before the meeting or any adjournments, assuming the presence of a quorum. Only stockholders of record at the close of business on March 3, 2014 will be entitled to vote at the meeting and any adjournments or postponements.

This proxy statement is being furnished to our stockholders in connection with the solicitation of proxies for use at the annual meeting. This solicitation is made on behalf of our board of directors. On April 17, 2014, we expect to mail our stockholders a Notice of Internet Availability of Proxy Materials containing instructions on how to access our proxy materials, including our 2013 annual report, and how to vote.

Whether or not you plan to attend the meeting, your vote is very important. You may vote via a toll-free telephone number or online. If you received a paper copy of the proxy card by mail, you may also vote by signing, dating and mailing the proxy card in the envelope provided. Instructions regarding all three methods of voting will be contained on the proxy card and in the Notice of Internet Availability of Proxy Materials. If you execute a proxy by telephone, online or by mailing in a proxy card, but later decide to attend the meeting in person, or for any other reason desire to revoke your proxy, you may do so at any time before your proxy is voted.

Cordially,

O. TEMPLE SLOAN, JR.  
Chair of the Board of Directors

JEFFREY D. MILLER  
Vice President, General Counsel and Secretary

---

TABLE OF CONTENTS

|  |    |
|--|----|
| <u>ELECTION OF DIRECTORS</u>   | 1  |
| <u>Nominees for Election to Term Expiring 2015</u>                               | 1  |
| <u>Retiring Director - Term Expiring 2014</u>                                    | 3  |
| <u>Board Independence, Leadership and Other Activities</u>                       | 3  |
| <u>Meetings and Committees</u>   | 4  |
| <u>Compensation and Governance Committee</u>                                     | 4  |
| <u>Audit Committee</u>   | 5  |
| <u>Investment Committee</u>  | 6  |
| <u>Executive Committee</u>   | 6  |
| <u>Director Compensation</u>   | 6  |
| <u>Other Stockholder Information</u>   | 6  |
| <u>Stock Ownership Guidelines</u>  | 7  |
| <u>Equity Compensation Plans</u>   | 7  |
| <u>Stock Ownership Information</u>   | 8  |
| <br>   |    |
| <u>RATIFICATION OF DELOITTE &amp; TOUCHE LLP AS INDEPENDENT AUDITOR FOR 2014</u> | 9  |
| <u>Independent Auditor Fees</u>  | 9  |
| <u>Pre-Approval Policies</u>   | 9  |
| <u>Audit Committee Report</u>  | 9  |
| <br>   |    |
| <u>ADVISORY VOTE ON EXECUTIVE COMPENSATION</u>                                   | 10 |
| <br>   |    |
| <u>COMPENSATION OF NAMED EXECUTIVES</u>  | 11 |
| <u>Compensation Discussion and Analysis</u>                                      | 11 |
| <u>Compensation and Governance Committee Report</u>                              | 18 |
| <u>Summary Compensation</u>  | 19 |
| <u>All Other Compensation</u>  | 19 |
| <u>Grants of Plan-Based Awards</u>   | 20 |
| <u>Outstanding Equity Awards</u>   | 21 |
| <u>Option Exercises and Stock Vested</u>   | 22 |
| <u>Nonqualified Deferred Compensation</u>  | 22 |
| <u>Post-Employment Benefits</u>  | 22 |
| <u>Benefits Upon a Change In Control</u>   | 23 |
| <br>   |    |
| <u>ADDITIONAL INFORMATION</u>  | 24 |
| <u>Voting Information</u>  | 24 |
| <u>Proxy Solicitation and Document Request Information</u>                       | 24 |
| <u>Other Matters</u>   | 25 |
| <u>Stockholder Proposals for 2015 Annual Meeting</u>                             | 25 |
| <u>Costs of Proxy Solicitation</u>   | 25 |

HIGHWOODS PROPERTIES, INC.  
3100 Smoketree Court, Suite 600  
Raleigh, North Carolina 27604

---

PROXY STATEMENT FOR  
ANNUAL MEETING OF STOCKHOLDERS  
To Be Held on May 30, 2014

---

ELECTION OF DIRECTORS

The board consists of eight members. The terms of office for all of our directors will expire at this meeting. The persons listed below have been nominated as directors to hold office until the 2015 annual meeting and until any successors are elected and qualified. The board recommends a vote FOR each of the nominees. Should any one or more of these nominees become unable to serve for any reason, the board may designate substitute nominees, in which event the person named in the enclosed proxy will vote for the election of such substitute nominee or nominees, or reduce the number of directors on the board.

Even though our charter provides for a plurality voting standard for election of directors, our corporate governance guidelines provide that, in uncontested elections such as at this annual meeting, any director nominee who receives a greater number of votes WITHHELD from his or her election than votes FOR such election must promptly offer to resign following certification of the vote. The compensation and governance committee would then make a recommendation to the board as to whether the resignation should be accepted. The board would then decide whether to accept the resignation and disclose its decision-making process. In a contested election, the required vote would be a plurality of votes cast.

Nominees for Election to Term Expiring 2015

Charles A. Anderson, 53, co-founded Bandera Ventures, a private real estate development and investment firm, in May 2003. Prior to founding Bandera Ventures, Mr. Anderson was with the Trammell Crow Company for over 16 years. Prior to his departure, Mr. Anderson was senior executive director, responsible for the development and investment group for the western United States. He also served on Trammell Crow's executive and operating committees. Mr. Anderson serves on the Board of Directors for Triumph Savings Bank, Quintess and The Cooper Institute and is active in the Watermark Community Church. He is a former board member of The Real Estate Council and East-West Ministries. Mr. Anderson is not a director of any other publicly-traded company. The board recommends a vote FOR Mr. Anderson given his expertise in acquiring, developing and operating real estate assets and contacts throughout the real estate industry.

Gene H. Anderson, 68, has been a director since February 1997. Mr. Anderson served as regional manager of our Atlanta and Triad operations until his retirement in June 2009. He is managing principal of G.H. Anderson & Company, a private investment firm. Before joining our company, Mr. Anderson was president of Anderson Properties, Inc., a private real estate development company. Mr. Anderson is a past president of the Georgia chapter of the National Association of Industrial and Office Properties and is a past national board member of the National Association of Industrial and Office Properties. Mr. Anderson is not a director of any other publicly-traded company. The board recommends a vote FOR Mr. Anderson given his in-depth experience in acquiring, developing and operating real estate assets, knowledge of our operations resulting from previously serving as an executive officer of our company and contacts throughout the real estate industry and business community.

Edward J. Fritsch, 55, has been a director since January 2001. Mr. Fritsch became our chief executive officer and chair of our investment committee in July 2004 and our president in December 2003. Prior to that, Mr. Fritsch was our chief operating officer from January 1998 to July 2004 and was a vice president and secretary from June 1994 to January 1998. Mr. Fritsch joined our predecessor in 1982 and was a partner of that entity at the time of our initial public offering in June 1994. Mr. Fritsch is a director and member of the audit and compensation committees of one other publicly-traded company, National Retail Properties, Inc. (NYSE:NNN), a retail REIT. Mr. Fritsch is also a member of the board of governors of the National Association of Real Estate Investment Trusts (NAREIT), including serving as treasurer of its executive committee as well as a member of its audit and investment committees. Mr. Fritsch is also a director and audit committee chair of Capital Associated Industries, Inc., a trustee of Ravenscroft School, a member of Wells Fargo's central regional advisory board, a member of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill Foundation board, a director of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill Real Estate Holdings, a member of the University of North Carolina Kenan-Flagler's Business School board of visitors, a member of Urban Land Institute Triangle governance committee and a member of the Catholic Diocese of Raleigh Cathedral steering committee. The board recommends a vote FOR Mr. Fritsch given his strategic leadership skills, experience in acquiring, developing, selling and operating real estate assets and role as our chief executive officer.

David J. Hartzell, Ph.D., 58, has been a director since February 2009. Dr. Hartzell is the Steven D. Bell and Leonard W. Wood Distinguished Professor in Real Estate at the University of North Carolina Kenan-Flagler Business School. Prior to joining the University of North Carolina in 1988, Dr. Hartzell was a vice president at Salomon Brothers Inc., a research associate for The Urban Institute and a financial economist for the U.S. Office of the Comptroller of Currency. He is a former president of the American Real Estate and Urban Economics Association. Dr. Hartzell is not a director of any other publicly-traded company. The board recommends a vote FOR Dr. Hartzell given his expertise related to real estate portfolios, real estate finance and mortgage-backed securities and experience in real estate investment banking.

Sherry A. Kellett, 69, has been a director since November 2005. Ms. Kellett is a certified public accountant and served as senior executive vice president and corporate controller of BB&T Corporation from 1995 until her retirement in August 2003. Ms. Kellett previously served as corporate controller of Southern National Corporation. Ms. Kellett previously held several positions at Arthur Andersen & Co. Ms. Kellett is a director and member of the audit, compensation and ethics, nominating and corporate governance committees of one other publicly-traded company, Medical Properties Trust, Inc. (NYSE:MPW), a health care REIT. Ms. Kellett also serves as a director of MidCountry Financial Corp., a private financial services holding company based in Macon, GA. The board recommends a vote FOR Ms. Kellett given her experience leading the accounting department of a major financial institution, background as a certified public accountant, experience serving on the boards of a financial services company and another publicly-traded REIT and risk assessment and financial reporting expertise.

Mark F. Mulhern, 54, has been a director since January 2012. Mr. Mulhern is currently executive vice president and chief financial officer of Exco Resources, Inc. (NYSE:XCO), an oil and gas exploration and production company. Mr. Mulhern joined Exco in April 2013. Mr. Mulhern served as senior vice president and chief financial officer of Progress Energy, Inc. (NYSE:PGN) from September 2008 until its merger with Duke Energy Corporation (NYSE:DUK) in July 2012. Mr. Mulhern joined Progress Energy in 1996 as vice president and controller. Mr. Mulhern previously served as chief financial officer at Hydra Co Enterprises, the independent power subsidiary of Niagara Mohawk. He also spent eight years at Price Waterhouse, serving a wide variety of manufacturing and service businesses. Mr. Mulhern is not a director of any other publicly-traded company. Mr. Mulhern is a certified public accountant, a certified management accountant and a certified internal auditor. The board recommends a vote FOR Mr. Mulhern given his experience leading the finance and accounting departments of a major utility company, background as a certified public accountant, risk assessment and financial reporting expertise and experience as the chief financial officer of significant business enterprises.

L. Glenn Orr, Jr., 73, has been a director since February 1995. Mr. Orr has been president and chief executive officer of Orr Holdings, LLC since 2007 and was the managing director of The Orr Group from 1995 to 2007. Mr. Orr previously served as president and chief executive officer of The Orr Group. Before founding The Orr Group, Mr. Orr was chair of the board of directors, president and chief executive officer of Southern National Corporation, a predecessor to BB&T Corporation. He previously served as president and chief executive officer of Forsyth Bank





and Trust Co., president of Community Bank in Greenville, S.C. and president of the North Carolina Bankers Association. Mr. Orr is a director and member of the audit, compensation and ethics, nominating and corporate governance committees of one other publicly-traded company, Medical Properties Trust, Inc. (NYSE:MPW), a health care REIT. Mr. Orr also serves as a director of Broyhill Management Fund, a private investment firm, and is a past chair of the Wake Forest University board of trustees. The board recommends a vote FOR Mr. Orr given his expertise in finance, capital markets and strategic transactions, experience as chief executive officer and board chair of a major financial institution and experience serving on the boards of other publicly-traded REITs.

O. Temple Sloan, Jr., 75, is our board chair, a position he has held since March 1994. Mr. Sloan served as chair of General Parts International, Inc. from its founding in 1961 until its acquisition by Advance Auto Parts, Inc. in January 2014. He currently serves as chair of Trail Creek Investments, Inc. and Sheser Creek Company, private investment firms. Mr. Sloan also serves as a director of Golden Corral Corporation, a private restaurant chain. Mr. Sloan is not a director of any other publicly-traded company. The board recommends a vote FOR Mr. Sloan given his expertise in real estate, finance, capital markets and strategic transactions, experience as founder, chief executive officer and board chair of one of the largest privately-owned companies in the U.S., knowledge of our operations resulting from serving as a director of our company and its predecessors for more than 30 years and experience serving on the boards of other publicly-traded companies.

#### Retiring Director - Term Expiring 2014

Thomas W. Adler, 73, will retire as a director upon expiration of his term at this meeting. Mr. Adler, who has been a director since June 1994, is chair of Playhouse Square Real Estate Services in Cleveland, Ohio. Mr. Adler formerly served on the board of directors of the National Association of Realtors and the boards of governors of the American Society of Real Estate Counselors and NAREIT. Mr. Adler is a trustee of Cleveland State University, past national president of the Society of Industrial and Office Realtors, was actively involved in the Urban Land Institute and serves on several non-profit boards in the Cleveland area.

#### Board Independence, Leadership and Other Activities

Under NYSE rules, a majority of our directors and all of the members of the audit committee and the compensation and governance committee must be independent. For a director to qualify as independent, in addition to satisfying bright-line criteria established by the NYSE, the board must affirmatively determine that the director has no material relationship with us (either directly or as a partner, shareholder or officer of an organization that has a relationship with us). The board has determined that Ms. Kellett and Messrs. Adler, C. Anderson, G. Anderson, Hartzell, Mulhern, Orr and Sloan all satisfy the bright-line criteria and none has a relationship with us that would interfere with their ability to exercise independent judgment. The board does not believe leases of office space to family businesses controlled by Messrs. Sloan and G. Anderson impair either director's independence. The terms and conditions of the leases were comparable to terms and conditions then prevailing in the competitive marketplace. In addition, none of these directors other than Mr. G. Anderson (who retired from our company in June 2009) has ever served as (or is related to) an employee of our company or any of our predecessors or acquired companies or received any compensation from us except for compensation as a director.

No member of our audit committee has accepted any consulting, advisory or other compensatory fee from us other than as set forth below under "- Director Compensation." Further, the board has determined that each member of the committee is financially literate and two members, Ms. Kellett and Mr. Mulhern, both of whom are certified public accountants, are financial experts.

No member of the compensation and governance committee is a current or past employee of our company or any of our predecessors or acquired companies and each is an independent director. None of our executive officers serves, or in the past three years has served, as a member of the board of directors or compensation committee of another entity that has one or more executive officers serving on our board or the committee.

While Mr. Sloan, an independent director, has served as our board chair since 1994, the board has no policy with respect to the separation of the positions of chair and chief executive officer. The board believes that this issue is part of the succession planning process and that it is in our best interests for the board to make a determination at such time in the future when Mr. Sloan is no longer a director.

The principal responsibility of our directors is to exercise their business judgment to act in what they reasonably believe to be in the best interests of our company and our stockholders. The board oversees our company's overall strategic planning process, including the implementation and effectiveness of our strategic plan. As part of this process, the board regularly evaluates internal attributes and external threats that could hinder us from achieving our strategic goals and adversely affect the long-term outlook for our stockholders. The board believes that establishing an appropriate "tone at the top" and candid and constructive conversation between management and the board are essential for effective risk management and oversight. The board oversees management's overall processes to identify and mitigate enterprise risks and capitalize on strategic opportunities. The audit committee is responsible for overseeing the steps management takes to monitor and control financial risk exposures, including management's risk assessment and risk management policies. The compensation and governance committee is responsible for ensuring that our compensation policies and practices do not create risks that are reasonably likely to have a material adverse effect on our company. The board and its committees routinely meet and communicate with our executive officers as appropriate in the board's consideration of matters submitted for board approval and risks associated with such matters.

#### Meetings and Committees

At each in-person meeting of the board, our non-management directors meet in executive session. Our board chair (or, in the chair's absence, another independent director designated by the chair) presides over such executive sessions. In 2013, each of the directors attended at least 75% of the aggregate of the total number of meetings of the board and the total number of meetings of all committees of the board on which the director served. The board encourages its members to attend each annual meeting. All of our directors attended our 2013 annual meeting.

The following table provides membership and meeting information for the board and each of its committees during 2013:

| Director         | Board  | Audit  | Compensation and Governance | Executive  | Investment |
|------------------|--------|--------|-----------------------------|------------|------------|
| Mr. Adler        | Member |        |                             | Member     | Member     |
| Mr. G. Anderson  | Member |        |                             |            | Member     |
| Mr. Fritsch      | Member |        |                             | Ex-Officio | Chair      |
| Dr. Hartzell     | Member | Member |                             |            | Member     |
| Ms. Kellett      | Member | Chair  |                             |            |            |
| Mr. Mulhern      | Member | Member |                             |            |            |
| Mr. Orr          | Member |        | Chair                       | Member     |            |
| Mr. Sloan        | Chair  |        | Member                      | Chair      | Member     |
| Meetings in 2013 | 7      | 8      | 4                           | 12         | 11         |

#### Compensation and Governance Committee

The committee determines compensation for our executive officers and oversees our incentive plans. Grants of awards to directors and executive officers under our long-term equity incentive plan are also pre-approved by the full board based on the recommendations of the committee.

The committee also makes recommendations regarding board member qualification standards, director nominees, director responsibilities and compensation, director access to management and independent advisors and

management succession. Our corporate governance guidelines provide that the committee is responsible for reviewing with the board, on an annual basis, the appropriate skills and characteristics of board members as well as the composition of the board as a whole. This assessment includes consideration as to the members' independence, skills and experience in the context of the needs of the board. The board also seeks diversity among directors in terms of the factors listed in the preceding sentence. The same criteria are used by the committee in evaluating nominees for directorship.

The committee is responsible for reviewing any transactions that involve potential conflicts of interest involving executive officers, directors and their immediate family members. Our corporate governance guidelines provide that each director will disclose any potential conflicts of interest to the chief executive officer, who will then address the matter with the committee and the full board. In that situation, the director with the potential conflict would recuse himself or herself from all discussions of the board or any committee related to the conflict, except to the extent the board or a committee requests such director to participate. Any vote by the board or a committee to approve the matter or transaction giving rise to the potential conflict would be made only upon the approval of a majority of the disinterested directors. Our code of business conduct and ethics prohibits the continuation of any conflict of interest by an employee, officer or director except under guidelines approved by the board. Because the facts and circumstances regarding potential conflicts cannot be predicted, the board has not adopted a written policy for evaluating conflicts of interest. In the event a conflict of interest arises, the board will review the facts and circumstances of the conflict, our corporate governance policies, the effects of any potential waivers of those policies, applicable state law and NYSE rules and regulations and consider the advice of counsel before making any decisions regarding a potential conflict of interest.

In making any nominee recommendations to the board, the committee will consider persons recommended by our stockholders so long as the recommendation is submitted to the committee prior to the date that is 120 days before the anniversary of the mailing of the prior year's proxy statement. Nominee recommendations, together with appropriate biographical information, should be submitted to the chair of the compensation and governance committee, Highwoods Properties, Inc., 3100 Smoketree Court, Suite 600, Raleigh, North Carolina 27604. The committee may, in its sole discretion, reject or accept any such recommendation.

When considering new candidates for election, or when considering re-nomination of a director for an additional term, the board evaluates the candidate's expected contribution, level of engagement, experience and skill set. The board believes that directors who change the professional responsibilities and/or positions they held outside our company when they were elected should offer to resign from the board. However, the board does not believe that in every instance directors who retire or change from the positions they held when they were elected to the board should necessarily leave the board. There should, however, be an opportunity for the board, through the committee, to review the continued appropriateness of director membership under the changed circumstances, including the anticipated ongoing value and contribution of the individual director. The board further believes that each director should be generally available to respond to reasonable requests and commitments related to our company and that there is a limit to the number of public company boards of directors upon which a director may serve and meet such an availability requirement. As a result, our corporate governance guidelines provide that none of our directors may serve on more than four other public company boards of directors while serving on our board. No director currently serves on the board of more than one other publicly-traded company.

The board conducts an annual self-evaluation to determine whether it and its committees are functioning effectively. As part of this process, the committee receives comments from all directors and reports annually to the board with an assessment of the board's performance. The assessment focuses on the board's contribution to our overall success and specifically focuses on areas in which the board believes that its performance could improve.

#### Audit Committee

The audit committee approves the engagement of our independent registered public accounting firm (which we refer to as our "independent auditor"), reviews the plans and results of the audit engagement with such firm, approves professional services provided by such firm, reviews the independence of such firm, approves audit and



non-audit fees and reviews the adequacy of our internal control over financial reporting. The committee also oversees our internal audit and risk management functions.

#### Investment Committee

The investment committee has overall responsibility for approving significant acquisitions, developments and dispositions.

#### Executive Committee

The executive committee meets on call by our board chair and may exercise all of the powers of the board, subject to the limitations imposed by applicable law, the bylaws or the board.

#### Director Compensation

During 2013, our board chair received a cash retainer of \$60,000 and other non-employee directors received cash retainers of \$45,000. Members of the audit, executive and compensation and governance committees received additional cash retainers of \$5,000 for each committee, except that the additional cash retainer was \$10,000 for the chair of the compensation and governance committee and \$20,000 for the chair of the audit committee. Non-employee directors on the investment committee received additional cash retainers of \$10,000. Non-employee directors do not receive additional fees for attendance at meetings or participation in conference calls of the board or its committees. Non-employee directors also received a grant of time-based restricted stock with a value of approximately \$70,000. Such shares vest ratably on an annual basis over a four-year term.

The following table provides information regarding non-employee director compensation during 2013:

| Name                 | Fees Earned or<br>Paid in Cash | Stock<br>Awards (1) | All Other<br>Compensation (2) | Total     |
|----------------------|--------------------------------|---------------------|-------------------------------|-----------|
| Thomas W. Adler      | \$60,000                       | \$69,155            | \$8,432                       | \$137,587 |
| Gene H. Anderson     | \$55,000                       | \$69,155            | \$8,432                       | \$132,587 |
| David J. Hartzell    | \$60,000                       | \$69,155            | \$8,432                       | \$137,587 |
| Sherry A. Kellett    | \$65,000                       | \$69,155            | \$8,432                       | \$142,587 |
| Mark F. Mulhern      | \$50,000                       | \$69,155            | \$6,044                       | \$125,199 |
| L. Glenn Orr, Jr.    | \$60,000                       | \$69,155            | \$8,432                       | \$137,587 |
| O. Temple Sloan, Jr. | \$80,000                       | \$69,155            | \$8,432                       | \$157,587 |

Reflects the grant date fair value of such awards. As of December 31, 2013, each non-employee director, other than (1)Mr. Mulhern, held 4,960 unvested shares of time-based restricted stock. Mr. Mulhern, who became a director in January 2012, held 3,556 unvested shares of time-based restricted stock.

(2)Consists of dividends received in 2013 on outstanding restricted stock.

#### Other Stockholder Information

The board, in its role as primary governing body, provides oversight of our affairs and strives to maintain and improve our corporate governance practices. To this end, we have corporate governance guidelines and a code of business conduct and ethics applicable to directors, officers and employees. We also have a separate code of ethics for our chief executive officer and our senior financial officers. We intend to satisfy the disclosure requirement under Item 5.05 of Form 8-K regarding any amendment to, or any waiver from, a provision of these codes of ethics by posting such information on our website.

The board has established a process for interested parties, including employees and stockholders, to communicate directly with our independent directors. Written communications may be addressed to our board chair, Highwoods Properties, Inc., 3100 Smoketree Court, Suite 600, Raleigh, North Carolina 27604. The audit committee has also adopted a process for interested parties, including employees and stockholders, to send communications to the committee concerning regulatory compliance, accounting, audit or internal control issues. Written communications may be addressed to the chair of the audit committee, Highwoods Properties, Inc., 3100 Smoketree Court, Suite 600, Raleigh, North Carolina 27604. Interested parties may also use the toll-free hotline maintained by a third party that we have established as part of our code of business conduct and ethics by calling (800) 677-9884. Our corporate governance guidelines, code of business conduct, code of ethics for our chief executive officer and senior financial officers, audit committee charter and compensation and governance committee charter are available under the “Investor Relations/Governance Documents” section of our website at [www.highwoods.com](http://www.highwoods.com). The information on our website does not constitute part of this proxy statement.

#### Stock Ownership Guidelines

Our compensation and governance committee has established the following stock ownership guidelines:

|                         |                              |
|-------------------------|------------------------------|
| Position                | Multiple (in dollars)        |
| Chief Executive Officer | 6x Base Salary               |
| Other Named Executives  | 5x Base Salary               |
| Directors               | 3x Base Annual Cash Retainer |

Named executives must comply with these guidelines within five years of becoming an officer. Officers may not sell shares of our common stock or exercise in-the-money stock options, except for net share settlements, unless they comply with these guidelines. The committee is routinely provided with a report indicating whether each officer is in compliance with these guidelines. Our directors and officers also may not directly or indirectly engage in any hedging transaction involving shares of common stock or units of limited partnership interest in Highwoods Realty Limited Partnership, our operating partnership. This includes holding securities in margin accounts or pledging securities to collateralize personal loans or lines of credit. Since commencement of this policy in 2009, none of our officers or directors has engaged in any hedging transaction involving our securities.

#### Equity Compensation Plans

The following table provides information as of December 31, 2013 with respect to shares of common stock that may be issued under our existing equity compensation plans:

| Plan Category  | Number of Securities to be Issued upon Exercise of Outstanding Options | Weighted Average Exercise Price of Outstanding Options | Number of Securities Remaining Available for Future Issuance under Equity Compensation Plans |
|--|--|--|--|
| Equity Compensation Plans Approved by Stockholders     | 874,382  | \$32.24  | 2,171,432  |
| Equity Compensation Plans Not Approved by Stockholders | —  | —  | —  |

## Stock Ownership Information

The following table shows the number of shares of our common stock beneficially owned as of March 3, 2014 by each director, director nominee and named executive and all directors and executive officers as a group and as of December 31, 2013 for each group known to us to be holding 5% or more of our common stock:

| Beneficial Owner   | Number of Shares<br>Beneficially Owned<br>(1) | Percent of All<br>Shares (2) |   |
|--|---|------------------------------|---|
| O. Temple Sloan, Jr.   | 287,030                                       | *                            |   |
| Edward J. Fritsch  | 704,571                                       | *                            |   |
| Thomas W. Adler  | 44,818  | *                            |   |
| Charles A. Anderson  | —   | *                            |   |
| Gene H. Anderson (3)   | 790,340                                       | *                            |   |
| David J. Hartzell  | 22,645  | *                            |   |
| Sherry A. Kellett  | 27,833  | *                            |   |
| Mark F. Mulhern  | 7,492   | *                            |   |
| L. Glenn Orr, Jr.  | 34,293  | *                            |   |
| Michael E. Harris  | 156,408                                       | *                            |   |
| Theodore J. Klinck   | 32,240  | *                            |   |
| Jeffrey D. Miller  | 110,271                                       | *                            |   |
| Terry L. Stevens   | 176,463                                       | *                            |   |
| All executive officers and directors as a group (13 persons) | 2,422,381                                     | 2.7                          | % |
| BlackRock, Inc. (4)  | 10,364,415                                    | 11.5                         | % |
| CBRE Clarion Securities, LLC (5)                             | 6,420,744                                     | 7.1                          | % |
| FMR LLC (6)  | 4,997,618                                     | 5.6                          | % |
| Goldman Sachs Asset Management, L.P. (7)                     | 4,771,575                                     | 5.3                          | % |
| JPMorgan Chase & Co. (8)                                     | 4,580,562                                     | 5.0                          | % |
| The Vanguard Group, Inc. (9)                                 | 11,346,771                                    | 12.6                         | % |

\*Less than 1%

Includes the following stock options that are currently exercisable: 317,093 for Mr. Fritsch; 10,000 for Mr.

(1) Hartzell; 10,000 for Ms. Kellett; 37,317 for Mr. Stevens; 41,998 for Mr. Harris; 42,746 for Mr. Miller; and 7,439 for Mr. Klinck.

(2) The total number of shares outstanding used in calculating this percentage assumes that no operating partnership units or stock options held by other persons are exchanged for shares of common stock.

(3) Mr. G. Anderson pledged 465,000 shares of common stock (including operating partnership units) to collateralize a personal line of credit before adoption of our anti-hedging policy in 2009.

(4) Located at 40 East 52nd Street, New York, NY 10022. BlackRock, Inc. is the parent holding company of BlackRock (Luxembourg) S.A., BlackRock Advisors (UK) Limited, BlackRock Advisors, LLC, BlackRock Asset Management Canada Limited, BlackRock Asset Management Ireland Limited, BlackRock Financial Management, Inc., BlackRock Fund Advisors, BlackRock Fund Management Ireland Limited, BlackRock Fund Managers Ltd, BlackRock Institutional Trust Company, N.A., BlackRock International Limited, BlackRock Investment Management (Australia) Limited, BlackRock Investment Management (UK) Ltd, BlackRock Investment Management, LLC and BlackRock Japan Co Ltd, which are investment advisers for a variety of segregated BlackRock mutual funds and indices.

(5) Located at 201 King of Prussia Road, Suite 600, Radnor, PA 19087.

Located at 245 Summer Street, Boston, MA 02210. FMR LLC is the parent holding company of Fidelity

(6) Management & Research Company, Fidelity SelectCo, LLC, Strategic Advisers, Inc. and Pyramis Global

Advisors, LLC, which are investment advisers for a variety of segregated Fidelity mutual funds and indices.

(7) Located at 200 West Street, New York, NY 10282.

(8) Located at 270 Park Ave., New York NY 10017.

(9) Located at 100 Vanguard, Blvd., Malvern, PA 19355. Includes 6,003,604 shares beneficially owned by Vanguard Specialized Funds - Vanguard REIT Index Fund.



## RATIFICATION OF DELOITTE & TOUCHE LLP AS INDEPENDENT AUDITOR FOR 2014

The audit committee intends to appoint Deloitte & Touche LLP as our independent auditor for 2014. If the appointment of Deloitte & Touche is not ratified, the committee anticipates that it will nevertheless engage Deloitte & Touche as our independent auditor for 2014, but will consider whether it should select a different independent auditor for 2015. Representatives of Deloitte & Touche are expected to be present in person or by telephone at the meeting and will have the opportunity to make a statement if they desire. They are also expected to be available to respond to appropriate questions.

The board recommends a vote FOR this proposal.

### Independent Auditor Fees

The following table provides information regarding the fees recorded in our financial statements for professional services rendered by Deloitte & Touche:

|  | 2013        | 2012        |
|--|-------------|-------------|
| Audit Fees   |             |             |
| Annual audit and quarterly reviews   | \$1,047,894 | \$937,676   |
| New accounting standards and investment transactions                                 | 122,200     | 203,750     |
| Comfort letters, consents and assistance with offerings and related SEC documents    | 122,400     | 153,000     |
| Subtotal   | \$1,292,494 | \$1,294,426 |
| Audit-Related Fees   |             |             |
| Audits of financial statements of certain consolidated and unconsolidated affiliates | —           | \$97,490    |
| Tax Fees   |             |             |
| Tax compliance, planning and research  | \$56,349    | \$53,492    |

### Pre-Approval Policies

The audit committee has adopted a policy requiring the pre-approval of all fees paid to our independent auditor. All fees paid to Deloitte & Touche for services incurred during 2013 were pre-approved in accordance with the committee's policies. Before an independent auditor is engaged to render any service for us or for any of our wholly owned subsidiaries, the proposed services must either be specifically pre-approved by the committee or such services must fall within a category of services that are pre-approved by the committee without specific case-by-case consideration. Any services in excess of any pre-approved amounts, or any services not described above, require the pre-approval of the committee chair, with a review by the committee at its next scheduled meeting. The committee has determined that the rendering of non-audit services by Deloitte & Touche during or relating to 2013 was compatible with maintaining such firm's independence.

### Audit Committee Report

The audit committee oversees the financial reporting process on behalf of the board. Management is responsible for the company's financial statements and the financial reporting process, including implementing and maintaining effective internal control over financial reporting and for the assessment of, and reporting on, the effectiveness of internal control over financial reporting. The company's independent auditor is responsible for expressing opinions,

based on its audits, on the conformity of the audited financial statements with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America and on the effectiveness of the company's internal control over financial reporting.

In fulfilling its oversight responsibilities, the committee has reviewed with management and Deloitte & Touche the company's audited financial statements for the year ended December 31, 2013 and the reports on the effectiveness of the company's internal control over financial reporting as of December 31, 2013 contained in the 2013 annual report. This review included a discussion of the reasonableness of significant estimates and judgments, the clarity of disclosures in the financial statements and such other matters as are required to be discussed with the committee under generally accepted auditing standards, including, but not limited to, those matters under Statement on Auditing Standards No. 61, as amended (AICPA, Professional Standards, Vol. 1, AU section 380), 1 as adopted by the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board in Rule 3200T. The committee also reviewed and discussed with management and Deloitte & Touche the disclosures made in "Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations" and "Controls and Procedures" included in the 2013 annual report. In addition, the committee received the written disclosures and the letter from Deloitte & Touche required by the applicable requirements of the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board regarding the firm's independence, discussed with Deloitte & Touche the firm's independence and considered the compatibility of any non-audit services rendered by Deloitte & Touche on the firm's independence.

In reliance on the reviews and discussions referred to above, prior to the filing of the company's 2013 annual report with the SEC, the committee recommended to the board (and the board approved) that the audited financial statements be included in the annual report.

Audit Committee

Sherry A. Kellett (chair)

David J. Hartzell

Mark F. Mulhern

#### ADVISORY VOTE ON EXECUTIVE COMPENSATION

We are providing stockholders with the opportunity to cast an advisory vote on our executive compensation program. As discussed under "Compensation of Named Executives - Compensation Discussion and Analysis," the board believes our executive compensation program appropriately links executive compensation to our performance and aligns the interests of executive officers and stockholders. Highlights of our program, which is administered by our compensation and governance committee, include the following:

- Overall compensation is intended to be at, above or below competitive levels depending upon our performance relative to our targeted performance and the performance of our peer group.

- Our overall approach to setting base salaries is to create and sustain long-term stockholder value by balancing our need to retain, incentivize and attract high-quality professionals while appropriately managing our general and administrative expenses.

- Officers earn amounts under our annual non-equity incentive program only to the extent pre-defined performance criteria established by the committee are achieved during the year.

- A substantial portion of the long-term equity incentive awards granted to officers is at risk to the extent pre-defined performance criteria established by the committee are not achieved during any applicable three-year performance period.

- The committee does not believe that we have compensation policies or practices that create risks that are reasonably likely to have a material adverse effect on our company.

We have a recoupment policy under which the board can require reimbursement of any incentive compensation paid to an executive officer whose fraud or intentional misconduct caused the company to restate its financial statements. We request stockholder approval of the compensation of our named executives as disclosed pursuant to the SEC's compensation disclosure rules (which disclosure includes the Compensation Discussion and Analysis, the compensation tables and the narrative disclosures that accompany the compensation tables). As an advisory vote, this proposal is not binding upon us. However, our compensation and governance committee will consider the outcome of the vote when making future compensation decisions.

The board recommends a vote FOR this proposal.

## COMPENSATION OF NAMED EXECUTIVES

### Compensation Discussion and Analysis

The following is a discussion and analysis of the compensation of our principal executive officer, principal financial officer and three other most highly compensated executive officers during 2013:

|                    |  |
|--------------------|--|
| Edward J. Fritsch  | President and Chief Executive Officer                |
| Terry L. Stevens   | Senior Vice President and Chief Financial Officer    |
| Michael E. Harris  | Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer |
| Jeffrey D. Miller  | Vice President, General Counsel and Secretary        |
| Theodore J. Klinck | Vice President and Chief Investment Officer          |

Compensation Decision-Making. Our compensation and governance committee generally sets our compensation philosophy with respect to all of our officers, including our named executives. Actual compensation decisions with respect to Mr. Fritsch are made solely by the committee. Actual compensation decisions with respect to our other named executives are made by the committee after receiving input from Mr. Fritsch. Grants of awards to directors and officers under our long-term equity incentive plan are also pre-approved by the full board based on the recommendations of the committee.

Our executive compensation program was originally designed and implemented in 1999 with extensive input from Mercer Human Resource Consulting. The compensation and governance committee first engaged Mercer in 1999 and then again in 2004 and 2007 to review our existing compensation practices and suggest changes based on trends and developments impacting executive compensation and its best practices knowledge. In 2012, the committee engaged FTI Consulting, a nationally recognized compensation consultant specializing in the real estate industry, to review our executive and non-employee director compensation programs.

It was favorably noted that our stockholders overwhelmingly approved our executive compensation program at the 2013 annual meeting. Holders of 71.4 million shares of our common stock, or over 99% of the total votes cast, voted FOR the advisory vote on executive compensation.

Section 162(m) of the Internal Revenue Code generally denies a deduction for compensation in excess of \$1,000,000 paid to certain executive officers, unless certain performance, disclosure and stockholder approval requirements are met. Option grants and certain other awards are intended to qualify as "performance-based" compensation not subject to the Section 162(m) deduction limitation. The committee believes that a substantial portion of compensation earned under our compensation program would be exempted from the \$1,000,000 deduction limitation. The committee's intention is to qualify, to the extent reasonable, a substantial portion of each executive officer's compensation for deductibility under applicable tax laws. We generally believe that compensation earned by officers under our compensation program is deductible for tax purposes.

Compensation Objectives and Components. Compensation for our officers is based largely on the following principles:

- variable compensation is a significant part of compensation, with the percentage at-risk increasing at higher levels of responsibility;
- differences in executive compensation should reflect differing levels of responsibility and performance within our company;
- employee stock ownership aligns the interests of officers and stockholders and results in officers sharing financially in the successes and shortcomings of our company based in part upon their responsibility, overall impact and assessed contribution;
- performance-based compensation focuses officers on strategic business objectives and aligns pay with performance through performance-leveraged incentive opportunities;
- incentive compensation plans should encourage officers to take appropriate risks aimed at enhancing our business prospects and creating stockholder value without threatening the long-term viability of our company; and
- compensation must be competitive with that offered by other companies that compete with us to attract and retain the best possible executive talent.

A key factor in determining levels of compensation is the pay practices of our peer group, which consists of publicly-traded office REITs that our board and management believe to be most comparable to our company in terms of property type, class and condition of buildings, types of geographic markets, revenues and capital structure. The peer group typically changes from time to time due to industry consolidation, new market entrants, significant shifts in portfolio types, etc.

In 2013, our peer group consisted of the following REITs:

- Brandywine Realty Trust;
- Corporate Office Properties Trust;
- Cousins Properties Incorporated;
- Kilroy Realty Corp.;
- Liberty Property Trust;
- Mack-Cali Realty Corp.;
- Parkway Properties, Inc.; and
- Piedmont Office Realty Trust, Inc.

Our peer group is the same in 2014 as 2013 except that Kilroy Realty Corp. is no longer included.

Publicly-available data from the peer group was considered in determining the proportions of base salary, annual non-equity incentive compensation and equity incentive compensation, as well as targeted total compensation.

Differences in market capitalization among the peer group and our company are considered. Overall compensation is intended to be at, above or below competitive levels depending upon our performance relative to our targeted performance and the performance of our peer group.

Our compensation and governance committee does not believe that we have compensation policies or practices that create risks that are reasonably likely to have a material adverse effect on our company. Other than as described below, we have no compensation policy or program that rewards employees solely on a transaction-specific basis. We have a development cash incentive plan pursuant to which certain of our division officers and other division operations personnel (but not our named executives) can receive a cash payout from a development incentive pool. The amount of funds available to be earned under the plan depends upon the timing and cash yields of a qualifying development project, but can be up to \$100,000 per speculative development and \$150,000 per build-to-suit development (which such funds would be included in the pro forma budget for the project if applicable). The

program does not create an inappropriate risk because all development projects (inclusive of any such incentive compensation) must be approved in advance by our senior leadership team and the investment committee of our board, whose members are not eligible to receive such incentives. We also pay our in-house leasing representatives commissions for signed leases. The payment of leasing commissions does not create an inappropriate risk because amounts payable are derived from net effective cash rents (which excludes leasing capital expenditures and operating expenses) and leases must be executed by an officer of our company, who are not eligible to receive any such commissions. Generally, lease transactions of a particular size or that contain certain terms or conditions that exceed certain guidelines also must be approved in advance by our senior leadership team. Additionally, we have an internal guideline whereby customers that account for more than 3% of our revenues are periodically reviewed with the board. As of December 31, 2013, no customer other than the federal government accounted for more than 2% of our annualized cash revenues.

**Base Salary.** Base salaries for all of our employees are determined by position, which takes into consideration the scope of job responsibilities, the employee's level of experience and expertise and competitive market compensation paid by other companies for similar positions. Base salaries are also driven by market competition to attract and retain high quality professionals. Our overall approach to setting base salaries is to create and sustain long-term stockholder value by balancing our need to retain high-quality professionals while appropriately managing our general and administrative expenses. Under guidelines established by our compensation and governance committee, the target for total cash compensation of our named executives is intended to approximate the 50<sup>th</sup> percentile of our peer group. Our named executives each received a base salary adjustment in July 2013 as part of a 2.5% merit pool for all company employees.

**Bonuses in 2013.** On the recommendation of Mr. Fritsch, the compensation and governance committee approved the payment of a \$75,000 cash bonus to each of Messrs. Harris, Stevens, Miller and Klinck in December 2013 for excellent individual and team-oriented performance during the year.

**Annual Non-Equity Incentive Program.** In 2013, officers participated in our annual non-equity incentive program pursuant to which they were eligible to earn cash payments based on a percentage of their annual base salary in effect for December 2013. Under this component of our executive compensation program, officers are eligible to earn additional cash compensation to the extent specific performance-based metrics are achieved during the most recently completed year. The position held by each officer has a target annual incentive percentage. For 2013, the target annual incentive percentage was 130% for Mr. Fritsch, 95% for Mr. Harris, 90% for Mr. Stevens and 75% for each of Messrs. Miller and Klinck. In addition to considering the pay practices of our peer group in determining each officer's annual incentive percentage, the committee also considers the individual officer's ability to influence our overall performance. The more senior the position, the greater the portion of compensation that varies with performance.

The percentage amount an officer may earn under the annual non-equity incentive program is the product of the target annual incentive percentage times an "actual performance factor," which can range from zero to 200%. The actual performance factor depends upon the relationship between actual performance in specific areas at each of our divisions and predetermined goals. For Messrs. Fritsch, Harris, Stevens, Miller and Klinck, who served as corporate executives during 2013, the actual performance factor of 118% was based on the goals and criteria applied to our performance as a whole. Participants in our annual non-equity incentive program receive quarterly statements throughout the year that illustrate our projected performance, which is an important tool in keeping our employees focused on achieving our strategic and operating goals.

The components and weighting of each year's metrics, which are approved by the compensation and governance committee near the beginning of each year as part of our budgeting and strategic planning process, are intended to closely match our company's overall operating and financial goals and provide our officers with direct "line of sight" to focus their individual and collective efforts on the achievement of the metrics. The performance criteria, which are equally weighted, are the following:

per share funds from operations ("FFO") excluding unusual charges or credits;

net operating income (on a division-by-division basis, inclusive of other income, general and administrative expense and a capital charge/credit applied to net operating income derived from investment activity and excluding unusual charges or credits); and  
 average occupancy (on a division-by-division basis).

The committee approves threshold, target and maximum levels with respect to each of the factors. The following table provides information about the performance-based metrics under our annual non-equity incentive program for 2013:

| Factor                      | Threshold (50%) | Target (100%) | Maximum (200%) | Actual Performance | Actual Performance Factor |   |
|-----------------------------|-----------------|---------------|----------------|--------------------|---------------------------|---|
| Per Share FFO*              | \$2.675         | \$2.730       | \$2.839        | \$2.864            | 200.0                     | % |
| Net Operating Income Growth | 0.5%            | 1.5%          | 3.5%           | 0.65%              | 57.5                      | % |
| Average Occupancy           | 87.0%           | 90.0%         | 93.0%          | 89.82%             | 97.0                      | % |

To the extent average leverage throughout 2013 was more or less than 43.7%, the effect of such difference was \*intended to be excluded. Actual average leverage was 43.1%, which had the effect of lowering our Per Share FFO by \$0.02 cents per share. As a result, for purposes of the annual non-equity incentive program for 2013, \$0.02 was added to the actual performance for Per Share FFO.

If the threshold level is not satisfied with respect to a particular factor, the actual performance factor would be zero with respect to that factor. If performance exceeds the threshold level but does not satisfy the target level, the actual performance factor would range on a continuum between 50% and 100% with respect to that factor. If performance is between the target level and the maximum level, the actual performance factor would range on a continuum between 100% and 200% with respect to that factor. The performance factor used to determine the amount an executive could earn in 2013 under the annual non-equity incentive program was the average of the three factors. Notwithstanding the formulas described above, our compensation and governance committee retains the discretion and flexibility to increase or decrease the actual performance factor for Mr. Fritsch and, after receiving input from Mr. Fritsch, for our other named executives to more appropriately reflect actual performance, market conditions, unanticipated circumstances and other factors. The actual performance factor was not modified for any of our named executives in 2013.

The following table provides information about the performance-based metrics under our annual non-equity incentive program for 2014:

| Factor                      | Threshold (50%) | Target (100%) | Maximum (200%) |
|-----------------------------|-----------------|---------------|----------------|
| Per Share FFO               | \$2.822         | \$2.880       | \$2.995        |
| Net Operating Income Growth | 0.35%           | 1.25%         | 3.50%          |
| Average Occupancy           | 87.0%           | 89.7%         | 92.7%          |

While the threshold and target levels for the Net Operating Income factor and the target and maximum levels for the Average Occupancy factor are slightly lower in 2014 than in 2013, the threshold, target and maximum levels for the Per Share FFO factor are higher in 2014 than 2013. The probable overall actual performance factor for corporate executives under the 2014 program is currently expected to be 103%.

Equity Incentive Compensation-Overview. Our officers are eligible to receive equity incentive compensation that promotes our long-term success by aligning their interests with the interests of our stockholders. The equity incentive awards provide executive officers with an ownership interest in our company and a direct and demonstrable stake in our success to the extent of their position, responsibility, overall impact and assessed contribution. We have adopted stock ownership guidelines for all of our officers. For additional information, see "Election of Directors - Stock Ownership Guidelines."

Our compensation and governance committee authorizes a mix of stock options and restricted stock awards to our named executives valued on the grant date at amounts generally ranging in the aggregate from 150% to 295% of their annual base salary depending upon position within our company. The mix consists of 20% in stock options, 40% in time-based restricted stock and 40% in total return-based restricted stock. The percentage amount is 295% for our chief executive officer, 180% for our chief operating officer, chief financial officer and general counsel and 150% for our chief investment officer. Such awards are typically issued during the first quarter of each year.

**Equity Incentive Compensation-Stock Options.** The compensation and governance committee believes the issuance of stock options help align the interests of our named executives with the interests of our stockholders. Like restricted stock, stock options offer the potential to realize additional compensation in the future upon increases in the price of our common stock. Stock options differ from restricted stock in several key areas. First, the receipt of stock options is generally not taxable to holders until exercise, at which time there is typically cash available to the holder as a result of the sale of shares acquired upon exercise to pay the tax. Second, stock option exercises generally have a positive impact on our cash flows from financing activities. Third, holders of stock options, unlike restricted stock, are not entitled to receive dividends. Stock options awarded in 2013 expire after seven years and vest ratably on an annual basis over four years. Stock options awarded in 2014 expire after 10 years and vest ratably on an annual basis over four years. If an officer dies or becomes disabled, unexercised stock options generally are forfeited within six months. If an officer otherwise leaves for any reason other than for cause, except as provided under our retirement plan, unexercised stock options generally are forfeited within three months. If an officer's employment is terminated for cause, unexercised stock options are immediately forfeited.

**Equity Incentive Compensation-Time-Based Restricted Stock.** The compensation and governance committee believes that the issuance of time-based restricted stock is an important retention tool and serves to deter our officers from seeking other employment opportunities. Time-based restricted stock vests ratably on an annual basis over a four-year term. If an officer leaves at any time before the fourth anniversary of the date of grant, unvested shares are immediately forfeited except in the event of death, disability or as otherwise provided under our retirement plan. If an officer dies, unvested shares of time-based restricted stock will automatically vest. If an officer becomes disabled, unvested shares of time-based restricted stock will become non-forfeitable and continue to vest according to the terms of their original grants. Except as set forth in the next sentence, dividends received on time-based restricted stock are non-forfeitable and are paid at the same rate and on the same date as on shares of our common stock. With respect to shares of time-based restricted stock issued to our chief executive officer in 2013, dividends accumulate and are payable only if and to the extent the shares vest.

**Equity Incentive Compensation-Total Return-Based Restricted Stock.** The compensation and governance committee believes the issuance of total return-based restricted stock is an important retention tool that incentivizes our officers to concentrate their efforts on generating and sustaining long-term stockholder value. One of our principal goals is to provide our stockholders with attractive risk-adjusted returns on their investment through the consistent payment of quarterly dividends and stock price appreciation. Total return is defined as the sum of stock price appreciation plus reinvested dividends over the stock value at the beginning of the applicable period.

Each year, the committee sets minimum and maximum payout levels based on the probable total return of our common stock over three years using an analysis of all historical three-year total return periods since June 1994. In setting the minimum payout level, the committee considers the dividend yield of our common stock as of the original grant date on a three-year compounded basis as well as an expected probability achievement level that generally approximates 65%. If our absolute total return is less than the minimum threshold, all of the total return-based restricted stock will be forfeited at the end of the period, except as otherwise described below. The maximum payout level is determined such that the probability of achievement generally approximates 20%. In setting the target payout level, the committee considers an appropriate three-year compounded total return in light of then current economic conditions. This typically equates to the compounded annual dividend yield of our common stock as of the original grant date plus 250 to 500 basis points of compounded annual stock price appreciation.

The percentage of total return-based restricted stock that vests ranges between 50% and 100% to the extent our absolute total return ranges between the minimum level and the target level. All of the total-return based restricted stock will vest and we will issue an amount of additional shares up to 50% of the original award to the extent our





absolute total return ranges between the target level and the maximum level. These additional shares, if any, would be fully vested when issued.

The following table provides information about the total return-based restricted stock issued in 2013 and 2014:

| Year | Minimum (50%)      | Target (100%)      | Maximum (150%)     |
|------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| 2013 | 14.6% Total Return | 29.0% Total Return | 60.0% Total Return |
| 2014 | 14.6% Total Return | 25.0% Total Return | 60.0% Total Return |

Notwithstanding the foregoing, if our total return exceeds 100% of the peer group total return index, at least 50% of total return-based restricted stock issued in 2013 will vest at the end of the applicable period. This amount was increased to 75% for total return-based restricted stock issued in 2014.

If an officer leaves at any time before the end of the three-year performance period, all of the total return-based restricted stock will be forfeited except in the event of death, disability or as otherwise provided under our retirement plan. If an officer dies or becomes disabled, a pro rata portion of the total return-based restricted stock would become non-forfeitable and continue to vest according to the terms of their original grants.

Except as set forth in the next sentence, dividends received on restricted stock are non-forfeitable and are paid at the same rate and on the same date as on shares of our common stock. With respect to shares of total return-based restricted stock issued to our chief executive officer in 2013 and 2014, dividends accumulate and are payable only if and to the extent the shares vest.

**Employee Benefits and Perquisites.** Each officer receives the same company-wide benefits as are generally available to all other salaried employees, such as short and long-term disability insurance, basic life insurance and eligibility for health and supplemental life insurance, access to flexible health care reimbursement accounts and 401(k) matching. Officers participate in the same company-wide health insurance program, except that we pay an officer's family premium. Additionally, officers are entitled to receive additional annual perquisites not widely available to all salaried employees, such as a vehicle allowance and reimbursement for personal financial consulting services.

Prior to 2010, officers could elect to defer all or a portion of their base salary and/or amounts earned under our annual non-equity incentive plan, which were then invested in unrelated mutual funds under our non-qualified deferred compensation plan. The investment options under the deferred compensation plan are identical to the investment options available to all employees under our 401(k) plan, except that the funds remain assets of our company until payout. Payout elections, which were made at the discretion of each participant, were made during or prior to the year in which the deferral occurred, as required by applicable income tax regulations.

**Employment Contracts.** Other than Mr. Harris, none of our named executives has an employment agreement with us. We have a three-year employment contract with Mr. Harris that is extended automatically unless we give notice to Mr. Harris during the 60-day period ending one year prior to expiration of the contract. Mr. Harris may terminate the contract at any time upon 30 days' prior written notice to us. The contract restricts Mr. Harris from competing with us during employment and, except in certain circumstances, for a one-year period after termination of employment. The contract provides for, among other things, a severance payment in the event of termination by us without cause or termination by Mr. Harris for good reason equal to his base salary then in effect for the greater of one year from the date of termination or the remaining term of the contract plus amounts earned under our annual non-equity incentive program but unpaid as of the employment termination date.

**Change in Control Arrangements.** Our long-term equity incentive plan provides for the immediate vesting of all stock options and restricted stock upon a change in control. Additionally, we have change in control arrangements with our named executives that provide benefits to such officers in the event of a termination of employment after a change in control. Our compensation and governance committee believes the benefits payable upon a termination of employment following a change in control are reasonable relative to similar arrangements involving executive

officers of our peer companies and are important to ensure the retention and focus of key employees in the event our board determines that pursuing a potential change in control is in our stockholders' best interest.

We have change in control agreements with Messrs. Fritsch, Stevens, Harris and Miller providing that, if within three years from the date of a change in control, the employment of the executive officer is terminated without cause, or the officer resigns with "good reason" (i.e. because such officer's responsibilities are changed, salary is reduced or responsibilities are diminished), such officer will be entitled to receive a cash payment equal to 2.99 times a base amount. The base amount for these purposes is equal to 12 times the highest monthly salary paid to the executive officer during the 12-month period ending prior to a change in control plus the greater of (1) the average amount earned under our annual non-equity incentive program and any other cash bonuses for the preceding three years or (2) the amount earned under such program and any other cash bonuses during the prior year. Each officer would also be entitled upon any such termination to receive a stay bonus otherwise payable on the first anniversary of a change in control in an amount equal to the base amount referred to in the preceding sentence. The agreements do not provide for benefits if the officer voluntarily resigns without good reason or gross-up payments to pay for applicable excise taxes. The agreements are currently scheduled to expire on February 12, 2017. Each agreement is automatically extended for one additional year on each anniversary date unless we give at least 60 days' prior notice that the term will not be extended.

Mr. Klinck would be eligible to receive certain benefits upon a termination within a one-year period after a change in control pursuant to an arrangement we have in place covering other employees. This arrangement generally provides that, if within 12 months from the date of a change in control, the employment of the employee is terminated without cause, including a voluntary termination with good reason, such employee will be entitled to receive up to one year's base salary plus the amount earned (on an annualized basis) during the year of such change in control under our annual non-equity incentive program. In addition, Mr. Klinck was provided with certain additional benefits in the event his employment is terminated upon a change of control that occurs within three years of his original employment date.

For purposes of these arrangements, "change in control" generally means any of the following events:

- the acquisition by a third party of 20% or more of our then-outstanding common stock;
- the individuals who currently constitute the board (or individuals who subsequently become directors whose elections or nominations were approved by at least a majority of the directors currently constituting the board) cease for any reason to constitute a majority of the board;
- approval by our stockholders of a reorganization, merger or consolidation in which we are not the surviving entity; or
  - approval by our stockholders of a complete liquidation or dissolution or the sale or other disposition of all or substantially all of our assets.

**Retirement Plan.** We have a retirement plan for employees with at least 30 years of continuous service or are at least 55 years old with at least 10 years of continuous service. Subject to advance written notice and a non-compete agreement, eligible retirees would be entitled to receive a pro rata amount of the annual non-equity incentive compensation earned during the year of retirement. Stock options and time-based restricted stock would be non-forfeitable and vest according to the terms of their original grants. Eligible retirees would also be entitled to retain any total return-based restricted stock that subsequently vests after the retirement date according to the terms of their original grants. Messrs. Fritsch, Stevens and Harris are currently eligible to receive benefits under the retirement plan.

**Incentive Compensation Recoupment Policy.** Under our corporate governance guidelines, in the event of a significant restatement of our historical financial results, the board will review any incentive compensation that was provided to officers on the basis of our company having met or exceeded specific performance targets during the period subject to restatement. If (1) the incentive compensation would have been lower had it been based on the restated financial results and (2) the board determines that any officer engaged in fraud or intentional misconduct as

of the date such financial results were completed for personal pecuniary gain that caused or substantially caused the need for the restatement, then the board will, to the extent practicable, seek to recover from such officer the portion of such compensation that would not have been earned had the incentive compensation been based on the financial results as restated.

#### Compensation and Governance Committee Report

The compensation and governance committee has reviewed and discussed the Compensation Discussion and Analysis with our management. Based on such review and discussions, the committee recommended to our board that the Compensation Discussion and Analysis be included in this proxy statement.

Compensation and Governance Committee

L. Glenn Orr, Jr. (chair)

O. Temple Sloan, Jr.

## Summary Compensation

The following table provides information regarding the compensation of our named executives:

| Name and Principal Position                          | Year | Salary    | Bonus    | Stock Awards (1) | Option Awards (1) | Non-Equity Incentive Plan Compensation | All Other Compensation | Total       |
|--|------|-----------|----------|------------------|-------------------|--|------------------------|-------------|
| Edward J. Fritsch                                    | 2013 | \$607,500 | -        | \$1,335,090      | \$354,003         | \$944,743                              | \$94,881               | \$3,336,217 |
| President and Chief Executive Officer                | 2012 | \$560,614 | -        | \$1,440,876      | \$328,614         | \$1,067,303                            | \$149,228              | \$3,546,635 |
|  | 2011 | \$542,622 | -        | \$1,420,029      | \$319,042         | \$715,631                              | \$461,919              | \$3,459,243 |
| Terry L. Stevens                                     | 2013 | \$375,122 | \$75,000 | \$508,298        | \$133,380         | \$403,867                              | \$67,740               | \$1,563,407 |
| Senior Vice President and Chief Financial Officer    | 2012 | \$370,491 | -        | \$584,783        | \$133,378         | \$456,261                              | \$71,291               | \$1,616,204 |
|  | 2011 | \$343,430 | -        | \$544,596        | \$122,367         | \$329,558                              | \$65,070               | \$1,405,021 |
| Michael E. Harris                                    | 2013 | \$375,956 | \$75,000 | \$509,462        | \$133,673         | \$427,253                              | \$68,758               | \$1,590,102 |
| Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer | 2012 | \$371,315 | -        | \$586,127        | \$133,674         | \$482,680                              | \$71,676               | \$1,645,472 |
|  | 2011 | \$361,685 | -        | \$577,651        | \$129,782         | \$348,640                              | \$75,551               | \$1,493,309 |
| Jeffrey D. Miller                                    | 2013 | \$269,884 | \$75,000 | \$365,721        | \$95,960          | \$242,137                              | \$59,146               | \$1,107,848 |
| Vice President, General Counsel and Secretary        | 2012 | \$266,552 | -        | \$420,724        | \$95,960          | \$273,550                              | \$60,072               | \$1,116,858 |
|  | 2011 | \$259,684 | -        | \$414,631        | \$93,162          | \$197,585                              | \$62,419               | \$1,027,481 |
| Theodore J. Klinck (2)                               | 2013 | \$253,125 | \$75,000 | \$285,841        | \$74,997          | \$227,102                              | \$43,997               | \$960,062   |
| Vice President and Chief Investment Officer          | 2012 | \$201,923 | -        | \$212,981        | \$48,358          | \$206,790                              | \$126,933              | \$796,985   |

Reflects the grant date fair value. For assumptions used in the valuation of outstanding restricted stock and stock options, see note 13 to the consolidated financial statements in our 2013 annual report. As reflected under "Grants of Plan-Based Awards," assuming maximum levels of performance with respect to total return-based restricted stock granted in 2013, on February 29, 2016, Mr. Fritsch will receive an additional 9,855 shares, Mr. Stevens will receive an additional 3,713 shares, Mr. Harris will receive an additional 3,722 shares, Mr. Miller will receive an additional 2,672 shares and Mr. Klinck will receive an additional 2,088 shares. Based on the \$36.50 per share closing price of our common stock on February 28, 2013, the original grant date, the value of such additional (1) shares would be \$359,708, \$135,525, \$135,853, \$97,528 and \$76,212, respectively. Assuming maximum levels of performance with respect to total return-based restricted stock granted in 2012, on February 28, 2015, Mr. Fritsch will receive an additional 30,551 shares, Mr. Stevens will receive an additional 12,399 shares, Mr. Harris will receive an additional 12,428 shares, Mr. Miller will receive an additional 8,921 shares and Mr. Klinck will receive an additional 4,557 shares. Based on the \$32.00 per share closing price of our common stock on February 29, 2012, the original grant date with respect to Messrs. Fritsch, Stevens, Harris and Miller, and the \$31.36 per share closing price for our common stock on March 12, 2012, the original grant date with respect to Mr. Klinck, the value of such additional shares would be \$977,632, \$396,768, \$397,696, \$285,472 and \$142,908, respectively.

(2) Mr. Klinck joined our company on March 12, 2012.

## All Other Compensation

The following table provides information regarding "All Other Compensation" in the table above for 2013:

| Name              | 401(k) Match | Dividends on Restricted Stock (1) | Financial Consulting Services | Vehicle Allowance | Other Benefits (2) | Total All Other Compensation |
|-------------------|--------------|-----------------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------|--------------------|------------------------------|
| Edward J. Fritsch | \$11,475     | \$35,304                          | \$12,511                      | \$9,728           | \$25,863           | \$94,881                     |
| Terry L. Stevens  | \$11,475     | \$33,592                          | \$5,852                       | \$7,800           | \$9,021            | \$67,740                     |

Edgar Filing: HIGHWOODS PROPERTIES INC - Form DEF 14A

|                    |          |          |         |         |          |          |
|--------------------|----------|----------|---------|---------|----------|----------|
| Michael E. Harris  | \$11,475 | \$34,414 | \$5,555 | \$7,800 | \$9,514  | \$68,758 |
| Jeffrey D. Miller  | \$11,475 | \$24,706 | \$5,394 | \$7,800 | \$9,771  | \$59,146 |
| Theodore J. Klinck | \$11,475 | \$9,520  | \$5,182 | \$7,800 | \$10,020 | \$43,997 |

---

(1) Excludes dividends paid on total return-based restricted stock, the expected value of which were factored into the original grant date fair value reflected in the "Stock Awards" column in the table under "Summary Compensation."

(2) Includes \$15,699 of supplemental life insurance premiums for Mr. Fritsch.

## Grants of Plan-Based Awards

The following table provides information regarding plan-based awards granted in 2013 to our named executives. The grant date for all equity incentive plan awards was February 28, 2013.

| Name and<br>Type of Award  | Estimated Possible Payouts<br>Under<br>Non-Equity Incentive Plan<br>Awards (1) |                |                 | Estimated Future Payouts<br>Under<br>Equity Incentive Plan<br>Awards (2) |               |                | All<br>Other<br>Stock<br>Awards;<br>Shares<br>of<br>Stock<br>(#) | All Other<br>Option<br>Awards:<br>Number<br>of<br>Securities<br>Underlying<br>Options<br>(#) | Per-Share<br>Exercise<br>Price of<br>Option<br>Awards<br>(\$/sh) | Grant<br>Date<br>Fair<br>Value of<br>Stock and<br>Option<br>Awards<br>(\$)(3) |
|--|--|----------------|-----------------|--|---------------|----------------|--|--|--|---|
|  | Threshold<br>(\$)  | Target<br>(\$) | Maximum<br>(\$) | Threshold<br>(#)   | Target<br>(#) | Maximum<br>(#) |  |  |  |   |
| Edward J.<br>Fritsch<br>Annual<br>Non-Equity<br>Incentive<br>Total | \$399,750  | \$799,500      | \$1,599,000     |  |               |                |  |  |  |   |
| Return-Based<br>Restricted<br>Stock                                |  |                |                 | 9,855  | 19,710        | 29,565         |  |  |  | \$615,675   |
| Time-Based<br>Restricted<br>Stock                                  |  |                |                 |  |               |                | 19,710   |  |  | \$719,415   |
| Stock Options  |  |                |                 |  |               |                |  | 54,462   | \$36.50  | \$354,003   |
| Terry L.<br>Stevens<br>Annual<br>Non-Equity<br>Incentive<br>Total  | \$170,889  | \$341,778      | \$683,556       |  |               |                |  |  |  |   |
| Return-Based<br>Restricted<br>Stock                                |  |                |                 | 3,713  | 7,426         | 11,139         |  |  |  | \$237,249   |
| Time-Based<br>Restricted<br>Stock                                  |  |                |                 |  |               |                | 7,426  |  |  | \$271,049   |
| Stock Options  |  |                |                 |  |               |                |  | 20,520   | \$36.50  | \$133,380   |
| Michael E.<br>Harris<br>Annual<br>Non-Equity<br>Incentive<br>Total | \$180,784  | \$361,568      | \$723,136       |  |               |                |  |  |  |   |
| Return-Based<br>Restricted<br>Stock                                |  |                |                 | 3,722  | 7,443         | 11,165         |  |  |  | \$237,792   |
| Stock Options  |  |                |                 |  |               |                | 7,443  |  |  | \$271,670   |

|   |           |           |           |       |        |         |           |          |
|---|-----------|-----------|-----------|-------|--------|---------|-----------|----------|
| Time-Based<br>Restricted<br>Stock<br>Stock Options                  |           |           |           |       | 20,565 | \$36.50 | \$133,673 |          |
| Jeffrey D.<br>Miller<br>Annual<br>Non-Equity<br>Incentive<br>Total  | \$102,456 | \$204,911 | \$409,822 |       |        |         |           |          |
| Return-Based<br>Restricted<br>Stock                                 |           |           |           | 2,672 | 5,343  | 8,015   | \$170,701 |          |
| Time-Based<br>Restricted<br>Stock<br>Stock Options                  |           |           |           |       |        | 5,343   | \$195,020 |          |
|   |           |           |           |       |        | 14,763  | \$36.50   | \$95,960 |
| Theodore J.<br>Klinck<br>Annual<br>Non-Equity<br>Incentive<br>Total | \$96,094  | \$192,187 | \$384,374 |       |        |         |           |          |
| Return-Based<br>Restricted<br>Stock                                 |           |           |           | 2,088 | 4,176  | 6,264   | \$133,417 |          |
| Time-Based<br>Restricted<br>Stock<br>Stock Options                  |           |           |           |       |        | 4,176   | \$152,424 |          |
|   |           |           |           |       |        | 11,538  | \$36.50   | \$74,997 |

(1) The “Estimated Possible Payouts Under Non-Equity Incentive Plan Awards” columns reflect the threshold, target and maximum cash amounts that our named executives were eligible to earn in 2013 under our annual non-equity incentive program. The “Non-Equity Incentive Plan Compensation” column in the table under “-Summary Compensation” includes actual cash amounts earned under these plans for 2013.

(2) The “Estimated Future Payouts Under Equity Incentive Plan Awards” columns reflect the number of shares of total return-based restricted stock that will vest in the future assuming threshold, target and maximum levels are satisfied. The number of shares of restricted stock set forth in the target column reflects the actual number of shares of restricted stock granted in 2013. None of the restricted stock granted in 2013 had vested as of December 31, 2013.

(3) Reflects the fair value of each applicable grant of stock options and restricted stock. For a description of our accounting policies and information regarding the calculation of the fair value of awards of stock options, total return-based restricted stock and time-based restricted stock, see note 13 to our consolidated financial statements included in our 2013 annual report.

Edgar Filing: HIGHWOODS PROPERTIES INC - Form DEF 14A

Outstanding Equity Awards

The following table provides information regarding outstanding equity awards held by our named executives as of December 31, 2013, which is based on our year-end stock price of \$36.17 per share:

| Name                  | Option Awards   |   |                       |                        | Stock Awards                                       |  | Equity Incentive Plan Awards: Number of Unearned Shares That Have Not Vested (2) | Equity Incentive Plan Awards: Market or Payout Value of Unearned Shares That Have Not Vested (2) |
|-----------------------|---|---|-----------------------|------------------------|--|--|--|--|
|                       | Number of Securities Underlying Unexercised Options - Exercisable | Number of Securities Underlying Unexercised Options - Unexercisable | Option Exercise Price | Option Expiration Date | Number of Shares of Stock That Have Not Vested (1) | Market Value of Shares of Stock That Have Not Vested (1) |  |  |
| Edward J. Fritsch     | 41,633  |   | \$42.03               | 3/1/14                 |  |  |  |  |
| Edward J. Fritsch     | 75,246  |   | \$29.48               | 3/2/15                 |  |  |  |  |
| Edward J. Fritsch     | 94,953  |   | \$18.89               | 2/29/16                |  |  |  |  |
| Edward J. Fritsch (3) | 48,242  | 16,081  | \$29.05               | 2/25/17                |  |  |  |  |
| Edward J. Fritsch (4) |   | 24,656  | \$33.93               | 2/27/18                |  |  |  |  |
| Edward J. Fritsch (5) |   | 44,975  | \$32.00               | 2/28/19                |  |  |  |  |
| Edward J. Fritsch (6) |   | 54,462  | \$36.50               | 2/29/20                |  |  |  |  |
| Edward J. Fritsch (7) |   |   |                       |                        | 49,911   | \$1,805,281  | 40,077   | \$1,449,585  |
| Terry L. Stevens      | 15,206  |   | \$42.03               | 3/1/14                 |  |  |  |  |
| Terry L. Stevens (3)  |   | 6,168   | \$29.05               | 2/25/17                |  |  |  |  |
| Terry L. Stevens (4)  |   | 9,456   | \$33.93               | 2/27/18                |  |  |  |  |
| Terry L. Stevens (5)  |   | 18,255  | \$32.00               | 2/28/19                |  |  |  |  |
| Terry L. Stevens (6)  |   | 20,520  | \$36.50               | 2/29/20                |  |  |  |  |
| Terry L. Stevens (8)  |   |   |                       |                        | 19,349   | \$699,853  | 15,692   | \$567,580  |
| Michael E. Harris     | 19,202  |   | \$42.03               | 3/1/14                 |  |  |  |  |
| Michael E. Harris (3) |   | 6,542   | \$29.05               | 2/25/17                |  |  |  |  |
| Michael E. Harris (4) |   | 10,030  | \$33.93               | 2/27/28                |  |  |  |  |
| Michael E. Harris (5) |   | 18,295  | \$32.00               | 2/28/19                |  |  |  |  |
| Michael E. Harris (6) |   | 20,565  | \$36.50               | 2/29/20                |  |  |  |  |
|                       |   |   |                       |                        | 19,729   | \$713,598  | 15,728   | \$568,882  |



|                            |        |        |         |         |        |           |        |           |
|----------------------------|--------|--------|---------|---------|--------|-----------|--------|-----------|
| Michael E. Harris<br>(9)   |        |        |         |         |        |           |        |           |
| Jeffrey D. Miller          | 14,804 |        | \$41.08 | 3/23/14 |        |           |        |           |
| Jeffrey D. Miller<br>(3)   |        | 4,696  | \$29.05 | 2/25/17 |        |           |        |           |
| Jeffrey D. Miller<br>(4)   | 7,199  | 7,200  | \$33.93 | 2/27/18 |        |           |        |           |
| Jeffrey D. Miller<br>(5)   | 4,378  | 13,133 | \$32.00 | 2/28/19 |        |           |        |           |
| Jeffrey D. Miller<br>(6)   |        | 14,763 | \$36.50 | 2/29/20 |        |           |        |           |
| Jeffrey D. Miller<br>(10)  |        |        |         |         | 14,162 | \$512,240 | 11,290 | \$408,359 |
| Theodore J. Klinck<br>(5)  | 2,277  | 6,830  | \$31.36 | 3/11/19 |        |           |        |           |
| Theodore J. Klinck<br>(6)  |        | 11,538 | \$36.50 | 2/29/20 |        |           |        |           |
| Theodore J. Klinck<br>(11) |        |        |         |         | 6,454  | \$233,441 | 7,214  | \$260,930 |

(1) Consists of time-based restricted stock.

(2) Consists of total return-based restricted stock.

(3) Such stock options were issued in 2010. All remaining unexercisable stock options became exercisable prior to the mailing of this proxy statement.

(4) Such stock options were issued in 2011 and vest ratably on an annual basis over a four-year term.

(5) Such stock options were issued in 2012 and vest ratably on an annual basis over a four-year term.

(6) Such stock options were issued in 2013 and vest ratably on an annual basis over a four-year term.

With respect to shares of time-based restricted stock, 20,210 shares vested prior to the mailing of this proxy statement, 14,756 shares are scheduled to vest in March 2015, 10,018 shares are scheduled to vest in March 2016 (7) and 4,927 shares are scheduled to vest in March 2017. With respect to shares of total return-based restricted stock, 20,367 shares are scheduled to vest after February 28, 2015 and 19,710 shares are scheduled to vest after February 29, 2016 if and to the extent the vesting criteria is satisfied.

With respect to shares of time-based restricted stock, 7,832 shares vested prior to the mailing of this proxy statement, 5,740 shares are scheduled to vest in March 2015, 3,921 shares are scheduled to vest in March 2016 and (8) 1,856 shares are scheduled to vest in March 2017. With respect to shares of total return-based restricted stock, 8,266 shares are scheduled to vest after February 28, 2015 and 7,426 shares are scheduled to vest after February 29, 2016 if and to the extent the vesting criteria is satisfied.

With respect to shares of time-based restricted stock, 8,078 shares vested prior to the mailing of this proxy statement, 5,858 shares are scheduled to vest in March 2015, 3,933 shares are scheduled to vest in March 2016 and (9) 1,860 shares are scheduled to vest in March 2017. With respect to shares of total return-based restricted stock, 8,285 shares are scheduled to vest after February 28, 2015 and 7,443 shares are scheduled to vest after February 29, 2016 if and to the extent the vesting criteria is satisfied.

With respect to shares of time-based restricted stock, 5,799 shares vested prior to the mailing of this proxy statement, 4,206 shares are scheduled to vest in March 2015, 2,822 shares are scheduled to vest in March 2016 (10) and 1,335 shares are scheduled to vest in March 2017. With respect to shares of total return-based restricted stock, 5,947 shares are scheduled to vest after February 28, 2015 and 5,343 shares are scheduled to vest after February 29, 2016 if and to the extent the vesting criteria is satisfied.

With respect to shares of time-based restricted stock, 1,804 shares vested prior to the mailing of this proxy statement, 1,803 shares are scheduled to vest in March 2015, 1,803 shares are scheduled to vest in March 2016 (11) and 1,044 shares are scheduled to vest in March 2017. With respect to shares of total return-based restricted stock, 3,038 shares are scheduled to vest after February 28, 2015 and 4,176 shares are scheduled to vest after February 29, 2016 if and to the extent the vesting criteria is satisfied.

#### Option Exercises and Stock Vested

The following table provides information regarding the exercise of stock options and vesting of restricted stock by our named executives during 2013:

| Name               | Option Awards                         |                            | Stock Awards                         |                           |
|--------------------|---------------------------------------|----------------------------|--------------------------------------|---------------------------|
|                    | Number of Shares Acquired on Exercise | Value Realized on Exercise | Number of Shares Acquired on Vesting | Value Realized on Vesting |
| Edward J. Fritsch  | 222,981                               | \$1,694,028                | 37,185                               | \$1,357,598               |
| Terry L. Stevens   | 45,987                                | \$543,652                  | 14,376                               | \$524,880                 |
| Michael E. Harris  | 35,543                                | \$409,838                  | 15,126                               | \$552,240                 |
| Jeffrey D. Miller  | 23,329                                | \$285,240                  | 10,858                               | \$396,418                 |
| Theodore J. Klinck | —                                     | —                          | 760                                  | \$27,900                  |

#### Nonqualified Deferred Compensation

The following table provides information regarding funds invested prior to 2010 by Messrs. Fritsch, Stevens and Harris in our nonqualified deferred compensation plan:

| Name              | Aggregate Balance at December 31, 2012 | Aggregate Earnings | Aggregate Distributions | Aggregate Balance at December 31, 2013 |
|-------------------|--|--------------------|-------------------------|--|
|                   | Edward J. Fritsch                      | \$200,275          | \$46,188                | \$46,349                               |
| Terry L. Stevens  | \$516,797                              | \$127,906          | —                       | \$644,703                              |
| Michael E. Harris | \$295,999                              | \$74,281           | —                       | \$370,280                              |

#### Post-Employment Benefits

Under the terms of our long-term equity incentive plan, had the employment of any of Messrs. Fritsch, Stevens, Miller or Klinck been terminated as of December 31, 2013 due to their death or disability, all of their unvested time-based restricted stock would have vested immediately, a pro rata portion of their total return-based restricted stock would have been non-forfeitable and continue to vest according to the terms of their original grants and their stock options exercisable as of December 31, 2013 would have continued to be exercisable for a six-month period thereafter.

Under the terms of our retirement plan, had Messrs. Fritsch and Stevens retired as of December 31, 2013, they would have been entitled to receive a cash payment equal to any unpaid portion of amounts earned under the 2013 annual non-equity incentive program, their unvested stock options and time-based restricted stock would be non-forfeitable and vest according to the terms of their original grants and they would be entitled to retain any total return-based restricted stock that subsequently vests after the retirement date according to the terms of their original grants.

The following sets forth estimated information regarding the benefits Mr. Harris would have received under his employment agreement or the retirement plan had his employment been terminated as of December 31, 2013:

22

---

In the event of his death, the estate of Mr. Harris would have been entitled to receive a cash payment of \$31,717 plus any unpaid portion of amounts earned under the 2013 annual non-equity incentive program. All of his unvested time-based restricted stock would have vested immediately, a pro rata portion of his total return-based restricted stock would have been non-forfeitable and continue to vest according to the terms of their original grants and his stock options exercisable as of December 31, 2013 would have continued to be exercisable for a six-month period thereafter.

In the event of his disability, Mr. Harris would have been entitled to receive a cash payment of \$190,299 plus any unpaid portion of amounts earned under the 2013 annual non-equity incentive program. All of his unvested time-based restricted stock would have vested immediately, a pro rata portion of his total return-based restricted stock would have been non-forfeitable and continue to vest according to the terms of their original grants and his stock options exercisable as of December 31, 2013 would have continued to be exercisable for a six-month period thereafter.

In the event of termination by us without cause or by him with good reason, Mr. Harris would have been entitled to receive a cash payment of \$380,598 plus any unpaid portion of amounts earned under the 2013 annual non-equity incentive program, continuing benefits valued at \$16,576 and all of his unvested restricted stock and outstanding stock options, whether or not then exercisable, would have been non-forfeitable and would have vested automatically.

In the event of termination by Mr. Harris without good reason, Mr. Harris would have been entitled to receive a cash payment of \$31,717, continuing benefits valued at \$1,381 and his stock options exercisable as of December 31, 2013 would have continued to be exercisable for a three-month period thereafter.

In the event of retirement, Mr. Harris would have been entitled to receive a cash payment equal to any unpaid portion of amounts earned under the 2013 annual non-equity incentive program, his unvested stock options and time-based restricted stock would be non-forfeitable and vest according to the terms of their original grants and he would be entitled to retain any total return-based restricted stock that subsequently vests after the retirement date according to the terms of their original grants.

For information regarding outstanding restricted stock and stock options as of December 31, 2013, see “-Outstanding Equity Awards.”

#### Benefits Upon a Change in Control

The following table provides estimated information regarding the benefits Messrs. Fritsch, Stevens, Harris and Miller would have each received under their change in control agreements assuming the employment of such officers had been terminated in connection with a change in control as of December 31, 2013:

| Name                  | Cash Payment | Value of Benefits | Value of Vesting of Time-Based Restricted Stock | Value of Vesting of Total Return-Based Restricted Stock | Value of Vesting of Stock Options |
|-----------------------|--------------|-------------------|---|---|-----------------------------------|
| Edward J. Fritsch (1) | \$7,168,118  | \$457,133         | \$1,856,379                                     | \$1,182,683   | \$357,272                         |
| Terry L. Stevens      | \$3,829,761  | \$99,820          | \$699,853                                       | \$449,702   | \$141,221                         |
| Michael E. Harris     | \$3,949,828  | \$99,820          | \$713,598                                       | \$450,735   | \$145,336                         |
| Jeffrey D. Miller     | \$3,597,641  | \$130,632         | \$512,240                                       | \$323,546   | \$104,328                         |

Amounts set forth under “Value of Vesting of Time-Based Restricted Stock” and “Value of Vesting of Total (1)Return-Based Restricted Stock” include accumulated and unpaid dividends on such shares that were issued in 2012 and 2013.

In the event the employment of these named executives had not been terminated in connection with a change in control as of December 31, 2013, all of the outstanding restricted stock and unexercisable stock options would nonetheless have vested as of such date. Additionally, the stay bonus payable on December 31, 2014 would have been \$1,559,743 for Mr. Fritsch, \$858,620 for Mr. Stevens, \$882,851 for Mr. Harris and \$590,352 for Mr. Miller.

Had Mr. Klinck's employment been terminated in connection with a change in control as of December 31, 2013, he would have been entitled to receive an estimated cash payment of \$445,919 plus any unpaid portion of amounts earned under the 2013 annual non-equity incentive program. Additionally, all of Mr. Klinck's outstanding restricted stock and unexercisable stock options would have vested as of such date. For information regarding his outstanding restricted stock and stock options as of December 31, 2013, see "-Outstanding Equity Awards."

## ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

### Voting Information

Holders of record of shares of our common stock as of the close of business on the record date, March 3, 2014, are entitled to vote at the meeting. The outstanding common stock is the only class of securities entitled to vote at the meeting and each share of common stock entitles the holder to one vote. At the close of business on the record date, there were 90,014,770 shares of common stock issued and outstanding.

The presence, in person or by proxy, of holders of at least a majority of the total number of shares of common stock is necessary to constitute a quorum for the transaction of business at the annual meeting. Abstentions and broker non-votes will count toward the presence of a quorum. The election of directors requires the vote of a plurality of all of the votes cast at the meeting; however, our corporate governance guidelines provide that, in uncontested elections such as at this annual meeting, any director nominee who receives a greater number of votes WITHHELD from his or her election than votes FOR such election must promptly offer to resign following certification of the vote. The ratification of Deloitte & Touche as our independent auditor and the advisory vote on executive compensation require the affirmative vote of a majority of the votes cast on each proposal. With respect to all proposals, abstentions and broker non-votes will not be counted as votes cast and will have no effect on the result of the vote.

If you are a beneficial owner whose shares are held of record by a broker, you must instruct the broker how to vote your shares. A "broker non-vote" occurs when a bank, broker or other holder of record holding shares for a beneficial owner does not vote on a particular proposal because that holder does not have discretionary voting power for that particular item and has not received instructions from the beneficial owner. Your broker has discretionary voting authority under NYSE rules to vote your shares on the ratification of Deloitte & Touche as our independent auditor even if the broker does not receive voting instructions from you. However, your broker does not have discretionary authority to vote on the election of directors or the advisory vote on executive compensation, in which case a broker non-vote will occur and your shares will not be voted on these matters.

Shares of common stock represented by a properly executed proxy received prior to the vote at the meeting and not revoked will be voted at the meeting as directed on the proxy. Where no specification is made on a properly executed form of proxy, the shares will be voted FOR the election of all nominees for director, FOR the proposal to ratify the appointment of Deloitte & Touche LLP as our independent auditor for 2014, FOR the advisory vote on executive compensation and FOR authorization of the proxy to vote upon such other business as may properly come before the meeting and any adjournments or postponements.

### Proxy Solicitation and Document Request Information

This proxy statement is being furnished to our stockholders in connection with the solicitation of proxies for use at the annual meeting. This solicitation is made on behalf of our board of directors.

You will soon receive a Notice of Internet Availability of Proxy Materials containing instructions on how to access our proxy materials, including our 2013 annual report, and how to vote online. If you receive a Notice by mail, you will not receive a printed copy of the proxy materials except upon request. The Notice will instruct you how to

access and review the proxy materials online and how you may submit your proxy online or by telephone. If you would like to receive a printed copy of our proxy materials, you should follow the instructions for requesting such materials included in the Notice.

#### Other Matters

Our management knows of no other matters that may be presented for consideration at the meeting. However, if any other matters properly come before the meeting, it is the intention of the person named in the proxy to vote such proxy in accordance with his judgment on such matters.

#### Stockholder Proposals for 2015 Annual Meeting

To be considered for inclusion in the 2015 proxy material, stockholder proposals to be presented at the 2015 annual meeting must be received by our secretary prior to December 18, 2014. If a stockholder wishes to present a proposal at the 2015 annual meeting, whether or not the proposal is intended to be included in the 2015 proxy material, our bylaws require that the stockholder give advance written notice to our secretary not less than 60 nor more than 90 days prior to May 30, 2015, which is the anniversary of this meeting. If a stockholder is permitted to present a proposal at the 2015 annual meeting but the proposal is not included in the 2015 proxy material, the compensation and governance committee has determined that our proxy holder would have the discretionary authority granted by the proxy card to vote on the proposal if the proposal was received after March 3, 2015.

#### Costs of Proxy Solicitation

The cost of preparing, assembling and making the proxy material available to our stockholders will be borne by us. We will also request persons, firms and corporations holding shares in their names or in the names of their nominees, which shares are beneficially owned by others, to send the proxy material to, and to obtain proxies from, such beneficial owners and we will reimburse such holder for their reasonable expenses in doing so. We have retained Broadridge and Wells Fargo Shareowner Services to assist in the process of identifying and contacting stockholders for the purpose of soliciting proxies. The entire expense of these proxy solicitation consulting services is expected to be approximately \$10,000.









