

GLADSTONE CAPITAL CORP  
Form PRE 14A  
November 06, 2015  
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**UNITED STATES**  
**SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION**  
**Washington, D.C. 20549**  
**SCHEDULE 14A**

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

Filed by the Registrant

Filed by a Party other than the Registrant

Check the appropriate box:

- Preliminary Proxy Statement
- Confidential, for Use of the Commission Only (as permitted by Rule 14a-6(e)(2))**
- Definitive Proxy Statement
- Definitive Additional Materials
- Soliciting Material Pursuant to § 240.14a-12

**GLADSTONE CAPITAL CORPORATION**

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

**(Name of Person(s) Filing Proxy Statement if Other Than the Registrant)**

Payment of Filing Fee (Check the appropriate box)

- No fee required.
- Fee computed on table below per Exchange Act Rules 14a-6(i)(1) and 0-11.

1. Title of each class of securities to which transaction applies:

2. Aggregate number of securities to which transaction applies:
  
3. Per unit price or other underlying value of transaction computed pursuant to Exchange Act Rule 0-11 (Set forth the amount on which the filing fee is calculated and state how it was determined):
  
4. Proposed maximum aggregate value of transaction:
  
5. Total fee paid:

.. Fee paid previously with preliminary materials.

.. Check box if any part of the fee is offset as provided by Exchange Act Rule 0-11(a)(2) and identify the filing for which the offsetting fee was paid previously. Identify the previous filing by registration statement number, or the Form or Schedule and the date of its filing.

1. Amount Previously Paid:
  
2. Form, Schedule or Registration Statement No.:
  
3. Filing Party:
  
4. Date Filed:



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PRELIMINARY COPY

**GLADSTONE CAPITAL CORPORATION**

**1521 Westbranch Drive, Suite 100, McLean, Virginia 22102**

**NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING OF STOCKHOLDERS**

**TO BE HELD ON FEBRUARY 11, 2016**

To the Stockholders of Gladstone Capital Corporation:

Notice Is Hereby Given that the 2016 Annual Meeting of Stockholders of Gladstone Capital Corporation, a Maryland corporation, will be held on Thursday, February 11, 2016, at 11:00 a.m. local time at the corporate headquarters of The Gladstone Companies, 1521 Westbranch Drive, Suite 100, McLean, Virginia 22102 for the following purposes:

- (1) To elect three directors, Paul W. Adelgren, David Gladstone and John H. Outland, to be elected by the holders of common stock and preferred stock, voting together as a single class, with each such director to serve until the 2019 Annual Meeting of Stockholders or until his successor is elected and qualified.
- (2) To approve a proposal to authorize us, with the approval of our Board of Directors, to issue and sell shares of our common stock (during the next 12 months) at a price below its then current net asset value per share, subject to certain limitations set forth herein (including, without limitation, that the number of shares issued and sold pursuant to such authority does not exceed 25% of our then outstanding common stock immediately prior to each such sale).
- (3) To transact such other business as may properly come before the meeting or any adjournment or postponement thereof.

The foregoing items of business are more fully described in the Proxy Statement accompanying this Notice.

We intend to mail these materials on or about December 11, 2015 to all stockholders of record entitled to vote at the annual meeting. Our Board of Directors has fixed the close of business on Monday, December 7, 2015, as the record date for the determination of stockholders entitled to notice of and to vote at this annual meeting and at any adjournment or postponement thereof.

**Important Notice Regarding the Availability of Proxy Materials for the Stockholders Meeting to be held on Thursday, February 11, 2016 at 11:00 a.m. local time at the corporate headquarters of The Gladstone Companies, 1521 Westbranch Drive, Suite 100, McLean, Virginia 22102**

The proxy statement and annual report to stockholders are also available at [www.proxyvote.com](http://www.proxyvote.com).

By Order of the Board of Directors

Michael LiCalsi

*General Counsel and Secretary*

McLean, Virginia

December 11, 2015

**ALL OF OUR STOCKHOLDERS ARE CORDIALLY INVITED TO ATTEND THE ANNUAL MEETING. WHETHER OR NOT YOU PLAN TO ATTEND THE ANNUAL MEETING, YOU ARE URGED TO COMPLETE, DATE, SIGN AND RETURN THE ENCLOSED PROXY CARD AS PROMPTLY AS POSSIBLE, SUBMIT YOUR PROXY ELECTRONICALLY VIA THE INTERNET, OR VOTE BY PROXY OVER THE TELEPHONE, AS INSTRUCTED IN THESE MATERIALS. SUBMITTING YOUR PROXY OR VOTING INSTRUCTIONS PROMPTLY WILL ASSIST US IN REDUCING THE EXPENSES OF ADDITIONAL PROXY SOLICITATION, BUT IT WILL NOT AFFECT YOUR RIGHT TO VOTE IN PERSON IF YOU ATTEND THE ANNUAL MEETING (AND, IF YOU ARE NOT A STOCKHOLDER OF RECORD, YOU HAVE OBTAINED A LEGAL PROXY FROM THE BANK, BROKER, TRUSTEE OR OTHER NOMINEE THAT HOLDS YOUR SHARES GIVING YOU THE RIGHT TO VOTE THE SHARES IN PERSON AT THE ANNUAL MEETING).**

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PRELIMINARY COPY

**GLADSTONE CAPITAL CORPORATION**

**1521 Westbranch Drive, Suite 100, McLean, Virginia 22102**

**PROXY STATEMENT**

**FOR THE 2016 ANNUAL MEETING OF STOCKHOLDERS**

**To Be Held On February 11, 2016**

**QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS ABOUT THIS PROXY MATERIAL AND VOTING**

**Why am I receiving these materials?**

We have sent you this Proxy Statement and the enclosed proxy card because the board of directors (the Board) of Gladstone Capital Corporation (we, us, or the Company) is soliciting your proxy to vote at the 2016 Annual Meeting of Stockholders (the meeting or annual meeting), including adjournments or postponements thereof, if any. You are invited to attend the annual meeting to vote on the proposals described in this Proxy Statement. However, you do not need to attend the meeting to vote your shares. Instead, you may simply complete, sign and return the enclosed proxy card, or follow the instructions below to vote by proxy over the telephone or through the Internet.

We intend to mail these materials on or about December 11, 2015, to all stockholders of record entitled to vote at the annual meeting.

**YOUR VOTE IS IMPORTANT. WHETHER OR NOT YOU PLAN TO ATTEND THE MEETING, PLEASE PROMPTLY VOTE YOUR SHARES EITHER BY MAIL, BY TELEPHONE, OR THROUGH THE INTERNET.**

**IMPORTANT NOTICE REGARDING THE AVAILABILITY OF PROXY MATERIALS FOR THE ANNUAL MEETING TO BE HELD ON FEBRUARY 11, 2016:**

**The Notice of Annual Meeting, this Proxy Statement and our annual report for the fiscal year ended September 30, 2015 are available at the following Internet address: [www.proxyvote.com](http://www.proxyvote.com).**

**How can I attend the annual meeting?**

The meeting will be held on Thursday, February 11, 2016, at 11:00 a.m. Eastern Standard Time (Eastern Time) at the corporate headquarters of The Gladstone Companies, 1521 Westbranch Drive, Suite 100, McLean, Virginia 22102.

Directions to the annual meeting may be found at [www.gladstonecapital.com](http://www.gladstonecapital.com). Information on how to vote in person at the annual meeting is discussed below.

**Who can vote at the annual meeting?**

Only our stockholders of record at the close of business on December 7, 2015, will be entitled to vote at the annual meeting. On this record date, there were [ ] shares of common stock outstanding and entitled to vote and [ ] shares of preferred stock outstanding and entitled to vote.

*Stockholder of Record: Shares Registered in Your Name*

If on December 7, 2015, your shares were registered directly in your name with our transfer agent, Computershare, then you are a stockholder of record. As a stockholder of record, you may vote in person at the meeting or vote by proxy. Whether or not you plan to attend the meeting, we urge you to fill out and return the enclosed proxy card or vote by proxy over the telephone or through the Internet as instructed below to ensure your vote is counted.

*Beneficial Owner: Shares Held in the Name of a Broker, Bank, Nominee, or other Similar Organization*

If on December 7, 2015, your shares were held, not in your name, but in an account at a brokerage firm, bank, dealer, or other similar organization (collectively, a Brokerage Firm ), then you are the beneficial owner of shares held in street name and these proxy materials are being forwarded to you by that Brokerage Firm because the Brokerage Firm holding your account or its nominee is considered to be the stockholder of record for purposes of voting at the annual meeting. As a beneficial owner, you have the right to direct your Brokerage Firm regarding how to vote the shares in your account. You are also invited to attend the annual meeting. However, since you are not the stockholder of record, you may not vote your shares in person at the meeting unless you request and obtain a valid proxy from your Brokerage Firm.



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### **What am I voting on?**

There are two matters scheduled for a vote:

1. Proposal 1, to elect three directors, Paul W. Adelgren, David Gladstone and John H. Outland, to be elected by the holders of common stock and preferred stock, voting together as a single class, with each such director to serve until the 2019 Annual Meeting of Stockholders or until his successor is elected and qualified.
2. Proposal 2, to approve a proposal to authorize us, with the approval of our Board, to issue and sell shares of our common stock (during the next 12 months) at a price below its then current net asset value per share, subject to certain limitations set forth herein (including, without limitation, that the number of shares issued and sold pursuant to such authority does not exceed 25% of our then outstanding common stock immediately prior to each such sale).

**We will hold a conference call to discuss the matters scheduled for a vote at this year's annual meeting on January 7, 2016, at 9:00 a.m. Eastern Time. Stockholders will have an opportunity to ask questions regarding the proposals during the conference call. In the U.S. you may call (855) 465-0177 and international callers must dial (484) 756-4311 to enter the conference call. An operator will monitor the call and set a queue for any questions. A conference call replay will be available, beginning two hours after the call concludes, through the date of the annual meeting, Thursday, February 11, 2016. To hear the replay, please dial (855) 859-2056 (international callers must dial (404) 537-3406 and use conference number 30937848). The call will also be available via webcast at [www.gladstonecapital.com](http://www.gladstonecapital.com). The webcast replay will also be available through the date of the annual meeting. In the event of any changes in the scheduled date and time of the call, we will issue a press release, which will be available on our website at [www.gladstonecapital.com](http://www.gladstonecapital.com).**

### **Why should I vote my shares?**

Under applicable law, we must conduct an annual meeting to allow our stockholders to vote for directors and other matters properly before the meeting. Certain matters listed in this Proxy Statement require a minimum threshold of votes to pass. The number of votes needed to pass each item in this proxy is described below under the question "How many votes are needed to approve each proposal?" When stockholders do not vote their shares promptly on items material to conducting our business, we must spend additional money to contact stockholders seeking their vote. This is very expensive and uses funds that could better benefit our stockholders in other ways. It is important that every stockholder votes promptly so that these expenses are minimized.

### **How do I vote?**

For each nominee to our Board and for Proposal 2, you may vote **FOR** or **AGAINST** or abstain from voting. The procedures for voting are as follows:

#### *Stockholder of Record: Shares Registered in Your Name*

If you are a stockholder of record, you may vote in person at the annual meeting, vote by proxy using the enclosed proxy card, or vote by proxy over the telephone or through the Internet. Whether or not you plan to attend the meeting, we urge you to vote by proxy to ensure your vote is counted. You may still attend the meeting and vote in

person, even if you have already voted by proxy.

To vote in person, we will give you a ballot when you arrive at the annual meeting.

To vote using the enclosed proxy card, simply complete, sign, date, and return it promptly in the envelope provided. To be counted, we must receive your signed proxy card by 11:59 p.m. Eastern Time on February 10, 2016, the day prior to the annual meeting.

To vote by proxy over the telephone, dial toll-free, 1-800-690-6903, using a touch-tone phone and follow the recorded instructions. You will be asked to provide the company number and control number from the enclosed proxy card. To be counted, we must receive your vote by 11:59 p.m. Eastern Time on February 10, 2016, the day prior to the annual meeting.

To vote by proxy through the Internet, go to [www.proxyvote.com](http://www.proxyvote.com) to complete an electronic proxy card. You will be asked to provide the company number and control number from the enclosed proxy card. To be counted, we must receive your vote by 11:59 p.m. Eastern Time on February 10, 2016, the day prior to the annual meeting.

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### *Beneficial Owner: Shares Held in the Name of Broker, Bank, Nominee, or other Similar Organization*

If you are a beneficial owner of shares held in the name of your Brokerage Firm, you should have received a proxy card and voting instructions with these proxy materials from that organization, rather than from us. Simply complete and mail the proxy card to ensure that your vote is counted. Alternatively, you may vote by proxy over the telephone or through the Internet, as instructed by your Brokerage Firm. To vote in person at the annual meeting, you must obtain a valid proxy from your Brokerage Firm. Follow the instructions from your Brokerage Firm, included with these proxy materials, or contact your Brokerage Firm to request a proxy form.

**We also provide Internet proxy voting to allow you to vote your shares online, with procedures designed to ensure the authenticity and correctness of your proxy vote instructions. However, please be aware that you must bear any costs associated with your Internet access, such as usage charges from Internet access providers and telephone companies.**

### **How many votes do I have?**

On all matters, you have one vote for each share of common stock and one vote for each share of preferred stock you owned as of the close of business on December 7, 2015.

### **What if I return a proxy card but do not make specific choices?**

If you return a signed and dated proxy card, or otherwise vote by proxy without making any voting selections, your shares will be voted **FOR** the election of all nominees for director and **FOR** Proposal 2. If any other matter is properly presented at the meeting, your proxy holder (one of the individuals named on your proxy card) will vote your shares using his or her best judgment.

### **Who is paying for this proxy solicitation?**

Gladstone Capital Corporation will bear the cost of solicitation of proxies, including preparation, assembly, printing and mailing of this Proxy Statement, the proxy card and any additional information furnished to stockholders. Copies of solicitation materials will be furnished to banks, brokerage houses, fiduciaries and other custodians holding in their names shares of our common or preferred stock beneficially owned by others to forward to such beneficial owners. We may reimburse persons representing beneficial owners of our common or preferred stock for their costs of forwarding solicitation materials to such beneficial owners. Original solicitation of proxies by mail may be supplemented by telephone, electronic mail or personal solicitation by directors, officers or other regular employees of Gladstone Management Corporation, our investment adviser (the **Adviser**), or Gladstone Administration, LLC (the **Administrator**). No additional compensation will be paid to directors, officers or other regular employees for such services. We have engaged Georgeson, Inc. ( **Georgeson** ) to solicit proxies for the annual meeting. Georgeson will be paid a fee of approximately \$5,500 plus out-of-pocket expenses for its basic solicitation services, which include review of proxy materials, dissemination of broker search cards, distribution of proxy materials to brokers, banks and institutional holders, and delivery of executed proxies. The term of the agreement with Georgeson will last for the period of the solicitation, and the agreement provides that we will indemnify and hold harmless Georgeson against any third party claims, except in the case of Georgeson's gross negligence or intentional misconduct. In addition to these written proxy materials, our proxy solicitor, officers and directors may also solicit proxies in person, by telephone or by other means of communication; however, our officers and directors will not be paid any additional compensation for soliciting proxies. We may also reimburse brokerage firms, banks and other agents for the cost of forwarding proxy materials to beneficial owners and obtaining your voting instructions.

**What does it mean if I receive more than one set of proxy materials?**

If you receive more than one set of proxy materials, your shares may be registered in more than one name or in different accounts at your bank or broker. Please follow the voting instructions on the proxy cards in the proxy materials to ensure that all of your shares are voted.

**Can I change my vote after submitting my proxy?**

Yes. You can revoke your proxy at any time before the final vote at the meeting. If you wish to revoke your proxy after 11:59 p.m. Eastern Time on February 10, 2016, you may only do so at the annual meeting. If you are the record holder of your shares, you may revoke your proxy in any one of the following ways:

You may submit another properly completed proxy card with a later date specified thereon.

You may grant a subsequent proxy by telephone or through the Internet on a later date.

You may send a timely written notice that you are revoking your proxy to our secretary at 1521 Westbranch Drive, Suite 100, McLean, Virginia 22102.

You may attend the annual meeting and vote in person. Simply attending the meeting will not, by itself, revoke your proxy.

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If your shares are held by your Brokerage Firm, you should follow the instructions provided by your broker or bank.

**When are stockholder proposals due for next year's annual meeting?**

We will consider for inclusion in our proxy materials for the 2017 Annual Meeting of Stockholders proposals that we receive not later than August 13, 2016 and that comply with all applicable requirements of Rule 14a-8 promulgated under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended (the "1934 Act"), and our bylaws, as amended ("Bylaws"). Stockholders must submit their proposals to our secretary at 1521 Westbranch Drive, Suite 100, McLean, Virginia, 22102.

In addition, any stockholder who wishes to propose a nominee to our Board or propose any other business to be considered by the stockholders (other than a stockholder proposal to be included in our proxy materials pursuant to Rule 14a-8 of the 1934 Act) must comply with the advance notice provisions and other requirements of Article II, Section 4(b) of our Bylaws, a copy of which is on file with the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission ("SEC") and may be obtained from our secretary upon request. These notice provisions require that nominations of persons for election to our Board and proposals of business to be considered by the stockholders for the 2017 Annual Meeting of Stockholders must be made in writing and submitted to our secretary at the address above no earlier than November 13, 2016 (90 days before the first anniversary of our 2016 Annual Meeting of Stockholders) and not later than December 13, 2016 (60 days before the first anniversary of the 2016 Annual Meeting of Stockholders). You are also advised to review our Bylaws, which contain additional requirements about advance notice of stockholder proposals and director nominations.

**How are votes counted?**

Votes will be counted by the inspector of election for the annual meeting who will separately count **FOR**, and **AGAINST** votes in addition to abstentions. The effects of abstentions on each proposal are described below under the question "How many votes are needed to approve each proposal?" We expect that our chief financial officer and treasurer, Melissa Morrison, and Michael LiCalsi, our general counsel and secretary, will be appointed as the inspectors of election.

**How many votes are needed to approve each proposal?**

**Vote Required**

***Proposal 1 Election of Directors.*** Each of Paul W. Adelgren, David Gladstone and John H. Outland must be elected by a majority of votes cast at the annual meeting by holders of our outstanding common stock and preferred stock, voting together as a single class. If you vote **ABSTAIN** with respect to a nominee, your shares will not be voted with respect to such nominee and will have no effect on the outcome of such proposal.

***Proposal 2 Authorization, with the approval of our Board of Directors, to issue and sell shares of our common stock (during the next 12 months) at a price below its then current net asset value per share, subject to certain limitations set forth herein (including, without limitation, that the number of shares issued and sold pursuant to such authority does not exceed 25% of our then outstanding common stock immediately prior to each such sale).*** The affirmative vote of each of the following is required to approve this proposal: (1) a majority of the outstanding common and preferred stock, voting together as a single class ("outstanding voting securities"); and (2) a majority of our outstanding voting securities that are not held by affiliated persons of the Company. For purposes of this proposal, the Investment Company Act of 1940 (the "1940 Act") defines a majority of the outstanding voting securities as the vote of the lesser of: (1) 67% or more of the voting securities of the Company present at the annual meeting, if the holders of

more than 50% of the outstanding voting securities of the Company are present or represented by proxy; or (2) more than 50% of the outstanding voting securities of the Company. Each abstention will have the same effect as an **AGAINST** vote.

**What is the quorum requirement?**

A quorum of stockholders is necessary to hold a valid meeting. A quorum will be present if a majority of our total number of outstanding shares of common and preferred stock are represented by stockholders present at the meeting or by proxy. On the record date there were [ ] shares of common stock and [ ] shares of preferred stock outstanding and entitled to vote. Thus, [ ] shares must be represented by stockholders present at the meeting or by proxy to have a quorum.

Your shares will be counted towards the quorum only if you submit a valid proxy (or one is submitted on your behalf by your Brokerage Firm or other nominee) or if you vote in person at the meeting. Abstentions will be counted towards the quorum requirement. If there is no quorum, the stockholders present and entitled to vote at the meeting may adjourn the meeting to another date.

**How can I find out the results of the voting at the annual meeting?**

Preliminary voting results will be announced at the annual meeting. Final voting results will be published in a current report on Form 8-K that we expect to file with the SEC within four business days after the annual meeting. If final voting results are not available to us in time to file a Form 8-K within four business days after the meeting, we intend to file a Form 8-K to publish preliminary results and, within four business days after the final results are known to us, file an additional Form 8-K to publish the final results.

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**What proxy materials are available on the Internet?**

The letter to stockholders, Proxy Statement, Form 10-K and annual report to stockholders are also available at [www.proxyvote.com](http://www.proxyvote.com).

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**PROPOSAL 1**

**ELECTION OF DIRECTORS**

Our Board is divided into three classes. Each class has a three-year term. Vacancies on our Board may be filled only by persons elected by a majority of the remaining directors. A director elected by our Board to fill a vacancy in a class, including any vacancies created by an increase in the number of directors, shall serve for the remainder of the full term of that class and until the director's successor is elected and qualified. Currently our Board is comprised of eight directors, six of whom are independent.

Holders of preferred stock are entitled, as a class, to the exclusion of the holders of all other classes of stock, to elect two directors (regardless of the total number of directors serving on our Board). Caren D. Merrick and Walter H. Wilkinson, Jr. were elected, solely by the preferred stockholders, at the Company's 2015 Annual Meeting of Stockholders for a term expiring in 2018, thus neither of the two preferred directorships are up for election at this year's annual meeting.

There are three directors in the class whose term expires in 2016 that have been nominated to stand for re-election: two are independent directors (Mr. Adelgren and Mr. Outland) and one is an interested director (Mr. Gladstone). Proxies cannot be voted for a greater number of persons than the number of nominees named. If elected at the annual meeting, each nominee would serve until the 2019 annual meeting and until his successor is elected and has qualified, or, if sooner, until his death, resignation or removal.

*Proposal 1*

The Company's Ethics, Nominating & Corporate Governance Committee (the Ethics Committee) nominated three incumbent directors Paul W. Adelgren, David Gladstone and John H. Outland for election by the common and preferred stockholders, voting together as a single class, for a term expiring in 2019.

Each director is elected by a majority of the votes cast at the annual meeting. Shares represented by executed proxies will be voted, if the authority to do so is not withheld, for the election of the three nominees. In the event that any of the nominees should be unavailable for election as a result of an unexpected occurrence, such shares will be voted for the election of such substitute nominees as management may propose. Each person nominated for election has agreed to serve if elected, and management has no reason to believe that any nominee will be unable to serve.

We encourage directors and nominees for director to attend the annual meeting. One of our directors attended the 2015 Annual Meeting of Stockholders.

Set forth below is biographical information for each person nominated, each person whose term of office as a director will continue after the annual meeting, each executive officer and certain other officers who are not also directors.



**Table of Contents****Nominees for a Three-Year Term to Expire at that 2019 Annual Meeting of Stockholders**

<b>Name, Address, and Age</b>	<b>Position(s)</b>	<b>Term of</b>	<b>Principal</b>	<b>Other</b>
	<b>Held With</b>	<b>Office and</b>	<b>Occupation(s)</b>	<b>Directorships</b>
<b>Disinterested Directors</b>	<b>Company</b>	<b>Length of Time Served</b>	<b>During the Past</b>	<b>Held by</b>
			<b>Five Years</b>	<b>Director</b>
Paul W. Adalgren (72)	Director	Term expires at 2016 annual meeting. Director since January 2003.	Pastor of Missionary Alliance Church since 1997.	Gladstone Commercial Corporation; Gladstone Land Corporation; Gladstone Investment Corporation
Gladstone Capital Corporation 1521 Westbranch Drive Suite 100 McLean, Virginia 22102				
John H. Outland (70)	Director	Term expires at 2016 annual meeting. Director since December 2003.	Private investor since June 2006.	Gladstone Commercial Corporation; Gladstone Land Corporation; Gladstone Investment Corporation
Gladstone Capital Corporation 1521 Westbranch Drive Suite 100 McLean, Virginia 22102				
<b>Interested Directors</b>				
David Gladstone (73)	Chairman of the Board, Chief Executive Officer	Term expires at 2016 annual meeting. Director since our inception in 2001.	Founder, Chief Executive Officer and Chairman of the Board since our inception in 2001. President from February 2013 through December 2013. Founder, Chief Executive Officer and Chairman of Gladstone Investment Corporation since its inception in 2005, Gladstone Commercial Corporation since its inception in 2003, and Gladstone Land Corporation since its inception in 1997. Founder, Chief Executive	Gladstone Commercial Corporation; Gladstone Land Corporation; Gladstone Investment Corporation
Gladstone Capital Corporation 1521 Westbranch Drive Suite 100 McLean, Virginia 22102				

Officer and Chairman of the  
board of directors of our  
Adviser.

**Table of Contents****Directors Continuing in Office Until the 2017 Annual Meeting of Stockholders**

<b>Name, Address, and Age Disinterested Directors</b>	<b>Position(s) Held With</b>	<b>Term of Office and Length of Time Served</b>	<b>Principal</b>	<b>Other Public Company</b>
			<b>Occupation(s) During the Past Five Years</b>	<b>Directorships Held by Director During the Past Five Years</b>
Michela English (65) Gladstone Capital Corporation 1521 Westbranch Drive Suite 100 McLean, Virginia, 22102	Director	Term expires at 2017 annual meeting. Director since October 2014.	President and Chief Executive Officer of Fight for Children, a non-profit charitable organization focused on providing high-quality education and health care services to underserved youth in Washington, D.C., since June 2006.	Gladstone Commercial Corporation; Gladstone Land Corporation; Gladstone Investment Corporation
Anthony W. Parker (70) Gladstone Capital Corporation 1521 Westbranch Drive Suite 100 McLean, Virginia, 22102	Director	Term expires at 2017 annual meeting. Director since our inception in 2001.	Founder and Chairman of the Board of Parker Tide Corp. (formerly known as Snell Professional Corp. and Medical Funding Corporation), a government contracting company providing mission critical solutions to the Federal Government, since 1997.	Gladstone Commercial Corporation; Gladstone Land Corporation; Gladstone Investment Corporation

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Name, Address, and Age Disinterested Directors	Position(s)	Term of	Principal	Other Public
	Held With	Office and	Occupation(s)	Company
	Company	Length of Time Served	During the	Directorships
			Past Five Years	Held by
				Director During the Past Five Years
Walter H. Wilkinson, Jr. (69)  Gladstone Capital Corporation  1521 Westbranch Drive  Suite 100  McLean, Virginia, 22102	Director	Term expires at 2018 annual meeting. Director since October 2014.	Founder and General Partner of Kitty Hawk Capital, a venture capital firm, since 1980. Board member of RF Micro Devices from 1992 until September 2014. Board member of QORVO, Inc. since September 2014. Board member of the N.C. State University Foundation since June 2007. Board member of the Carolinas Chapter of the National Association of Corporate Directors since July 2012 and Chairman of the Board of Directors from July 2012 until August 2014.	Gladstone  Commercial Corporation; Gladstone Land Corporation; Gladstone Investment Corporation; RF Micro Devices; QORVO, Inc.
Caren D. Merrick (55)  Gladstone Capital Corporation  1521 Westbranch Drive  Suite 100  McLean, Virginia 22102	Director	Term expires at 2018 annual meeting. Director since November 2014.	Founder and Chief Executive Officer of Pocket Mentor, a mobile application and digital publishing company focused on leadership development and career advancement, since 2014. Partner with Bibury Partners, an investment and advisory firm that focuses on enterprise and consumer technology sectors since 2004. Board member of the Metropolitan Washington	Gladstone  Commercial Corporation; Gladstone Land Corporation; Gladstone Investment Corporation; Washington First Bankshares, Inc.

Airports Authority since 2012 and WashingtonFirst Bankshares, Inc. since May 2015.

**Interested Director**

<p>Terry Lee Brubaker (72)* Gladstone Capital Corporation 1521 Westbranch Drive Suite 100 McLean, Virginia, 22102</p>	<p>Vice Chairman, Chief Operating Officer  and Assistant Secretary</p>	<p>Term expires at 2018 annual meeting. Director since our inception in 2001.</p>	<p>Vice Chairman since 2004. Our Chief Operating Officer since our inception in 2001 and of Gladstone Investment Corporation and Gladstone Commercial Corporation since 2005 and 2003, respectively, and Secretary of the same until October 2012. Vice Chairman of Gladstone Investment Corporation and Gladstone Commercial Corporation since 2005 and 2007, respectively. Vice Chairman, and Chief Operating Officer of our Adviser since 2006 and Secretary of our Adviser from 2006 until February 2011. Vice Chairman and Chief Operating Officer of Gladstone Land Corporation since April 2007.</p>	<p>Gladstone Commercial Corporation; Gladstone Land Corporation; Gladstone Investment Corporation</p>
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**Table of Contents****Executive Officers and Certain Other Officers Who Are Not Directors**

<b>Name, Address, and Age</b>	<b>Position(s) Held With Company</b>	<b>Term of Office and Length of Time Served</b>	<b>Principal Occupation(s)</b>
			<b>During the Past Five Years</b>
Michael LiCalsi (45) Gladstone Capital Corporation 1521 Westbranch Drive Suite 100 McLean, Virginia 22102	General Counsel and Secretary	General Counsel since October 2009; Secretary since October 2012.	General Counsel for all of the Gladstone affiliated companies since October 2009. Secretary of all of the Gladstone affiliated companies since October 2012. President of Gladstone Administration, LLC since July 2013. Managing Principal of Gladstone Securities, LLC since 2010.
Robert L. Marcotte (57) Gladstone Capital Corporation 1521 Westbranch Drive Suite 100 McLean, Virginia 22102	President	President since January 2014.	President since January 2014. Executive Vice President and Co-Head of Asset Management with MCG Capital Corp. from 2007 to December 2013.
Melissa B. Morrison (42) Gladstone Capital Corporation 1521 Westbranch Drive Suite 100 McLean, Virginia 22102	Chief Financial Officer; Treasurer	Chief Accounting Officer from October 2011 to April 2013; Chief Financial Officer since April 2013. Assistant Treasurer from July 2014 to January 2015 when appointed Treasurer.	Chief Accounting Officer from October 2011 to April, 2013 when appointed Chief Financial Officer. Appointed Assistant Treasurer in July 2014 and Treasurer in January 2015. Chief Financial Officer and Treasurer of Gladstone Investment Corporation from January 2015 to July 2015. Controller for Tandberg, Inc. (now known as Cisco Systems, Inc.) from September 2007 through September 2011.

\* Messrs. Gladstone and Brubaker are interested persons of Gladstone Capital Corporation, within the meaning of the 1940 Act, due to their positions as officers of the Company.

**Qualifications of Director Nominees**

When considering whether our director nominees have the experience, qualifications, attributes and skills, taken as a whole, to enable our Board to satisfy its oversight responsibilities effectively in light of our operational and organizational structure, the Ethics Committee and our Board focused primarily on the information discussed in each

of the individual backgrounds set forth above and on the following particular attributes:

*Mr. Adलगren* was selected to serve as an independent director on our Board, and as a nominee for another directorship term, due to his strength and experience in ethics as well as his past service on our Board since 2003. Mr. Adलगren's strength in ethics led to his appointment as the chairman of our Ethics Committee.

*Mr. Gladstone* was selected to serve as a director on our Board, and as a nominee for another directorship term, due to the fact that he is our founder and has greater than thirty years of experience in the industry, including his service as our chairman and chief executive officer since our inception and as our president from February 2013 through December 2013.

*Mr. Outland* was selected to serve as an independent director on our Board, and as a nominee for another directorship term, due to his more than twenty years of experience in the real estate and mortgage industry.

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**Qualifications of Incumbent Directors Serving Until the 2017 or 2018 Annual Meeting of Stockholders**

When considering whether our directors have the experience, qualifications, attributes and skills, taken as a whole, to enable our Board to satisfy its oversight responsibilities effectively in light of our operational and organizational structure, the Ethics Committee and our Board focused primarily on the information discussed in each of the individual backgrounds set forth above and on the following particular attributes:

*Mr. Brubaker* was selected to serve as a director on our Board due to his more than thirty years of experience in various mid-level and senior management positions at several corporations as well as his past service on our Board since our inception.

*Ms. English* was selected to serve as an independent director on our Board due to her greater than twenty years of senior management experience at various corporations and non-profit organizations as well as her past service on our Board since 2002.

*Ms. Merrick* was selected to serve as an independent director on our Board due to her knowledge and experience in operating a business and her understanding of the small business area through experiences overseeing the successful growth of her own business and several large and small businesses, charities and non-profits.

*Mr. Parker* was selected to serve as an independent director on our Board due to his expertise and experience in the field of corporate taxation as well as his past service on our Board since our inception in 2001. Mr. Parker's knowledge of corporate tax was instrumental in his appointment to the chairmanship of our Audit Committee.

*Mr. Wilkinson* was selected to serve as an independent director on our Board due to his vast experience in various areas of the investment industry as well as his experience in serving on boards of various organizations.

**THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS RECOMMENDS THAT STOCKHOLDERS VOTE FOR**

**EACH NAMED NOMINEE FOR DIRECTOR IN PROPOSAL 1.**



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**INFORMATION REGARDING THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND CORPORATE GOVERNANCE**

**Director Independence**

As required under the NASDAQ Stock Market ( NASDAQ ) listing standards, our Board annually determines each director's independence. The NASDAQ listing standards provide that a director of a business development company is considered to be independent if he or she is not an interested person of ours, as defined in Section 2(a)(19) of the 1940 Act. Section 2(a)(19) of the 1940 Act defines an interested person to include, among other things, any person who has, or within the last two years had, a material business or professional relationship with us.

Consistent with these considerations, after review of all relevant transactions or relationships between each director, or any of his or her family members, and us, our senior management and our independent registered public accounting firm, our Board has affirmatively determined that the following six directors are independent directors within the meaning of the applicable NASDAQ listing standards: Messrs. Adलगren, Outland, Parker, and Wilkinson and Meses. English and Merrick. In making this determination, our Board found that none of these directors or nominees for director had a material or other disqualifying relationship with us. Mr. Gladstone, the chairman of our Board and our chief executive officer, and Mr. Brubaker, the vice chairman of our Board and our chief operating officer and assistant secretary, are not independent directors by virtue of their positions as officers of the Company or our Adviser or their employment by our Adviser.

**Meetings of the Board of Directors**

Our Board met four times during the last fiscal year. Each Board member attended 75% or more of the aggregate of the meetings of our Board and of the committees on which he or she served that were held during the period for which he or she was a director or committee member.

Our independent directors met four times during fiscal year 2015 in regularly scheduled executive sessions, at which only independent directors were present, satisfying applicable NASDAQ listing standards, which require regularly scheduled meetings of independent directors.

**Corporate Leadership Structure**

Since our inception, Mr. Gladstone has served as chairman of our Board and our chief executive officer. He also served as our president from February 2013 through December 2013. Our Board believes that our chief executive officer is best situated to serve as chairman because he is the director most familiar with our business and industry, and most capable of effectively identifying strategic priorities and leading the discussion and execution of strategy. In addition, Mr. Adलगren, one of our independent directors, serves as the Lead Independent Director for all meetings of our independent directors held in executive session. The Lead Independent Director has the responsibility of presiding at all executive sessions of our Board, consulting with the chairman and chief executive officer on Board and committee meeting agendas, acting as a liaison between management and the independent directors and facilitating teamwork and communication between the independent directors and management.

Our Board believes the combined role of chairman, chief executive officer, together with an independent Lead Independent Director, is in the best interest of stockholders because it provides the appropriate balance between strategic development and independent oversight of risk management. In coming to this conclusion, our Board considered the importance of having an interested chairperson that is familiar with our day-to-day management activities, our portfolio companies and the operations of our Adviser. Our Board concluded that the combined role enhances, among other things, our Board's understanding of our investment portfolio, business, finances and risk

management efforts. In addition, our Board believes that Mr. Gladstone's employment by the Adviser better allows for the efficient mobilization of the Adviser's resources at our Board's behest and on its behalf.

**Table of Contents****Information Regarding Committees of the Board of Directors**

Our Board has five committees: an Audit Committee, a Compensation Committee, an Executive Committee, an Offering Committee and an Ethics, Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee. The following table shows the current composition of each of the committees of our Board:

Name	Audit	Compensation	Ethics, Nominating and Corporate Governance	Executive	Offering	Valuation
Paul W. Adलगren**		X	*X			
Terry Brubaker				X	X	
Michela A. English	X					
David Gladstone				*X	*X	
Caren D. Merrick	X					*X
John H. Outland	X	*X	X			X
Anthony W. Parker	*X			X	X	X
Walter H. Wilkinson, Jr.		X	X			X

\* Committee Chairperson

\*\* Lead Independent Director

Below is a description of each committee of our Board. All committees other than the Executive Committee have the authority to engage legal counsel or other experts or consultants as they deem appropriate to carry out their responsibilities. Our Board has determined that each member of the Audit, Compensation and Ethics, Nominating and Corporate Governance Committees meets the applicable NASDAQ rules and regulations regarding independence of such committees members and that each member is free of any relationship that would interfere with his or her individual exercise of independent judgment with regard to us.

***Audit Committee***

The Audit Committee oversees our corporate accounting and financial reporting process. For this purpose, the Audit Committee performs several functions. It evaluates the performance and assesses the qualifications of the independent registered public accounting firm; determines and approves the engagement of the independent registered public accounting firm; determines whether to retain or terminate the existing independent registered public accounting firm or to appoint and engage a new independent registered public accounting firm; reviews and approves the retention of the independent registered public accounting firm to perform any proposed permissible non-audit services; monitors the rotation of partners of the independent registered public accounting firm on our audit engagement team as required by law; confers with management and the independent registered public accounting firm regarding the effectiveness of internal controls over financial reporting; establishes procedures, as required under applicable law, for the receipt, retention and treatment of complaints received by us regarding accounting, internal accounting controls or auditing matters and the confidential and anonymous submission by employees of concerns regarding questionable accounting or auditing matters; and meets to review our annual audited financial statements and quarterly financial statements with management and the independent registered public accounting firm, including reviewing our disclosures under Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations. During fiscal year 2015, the Audit Committee was composed of Messrs. Parker (Chairperson) and Outland and Mses. English and Merrick (with Ms. Merrick joining the committee in November 2014). Messrs. Adलगren and Wilkinson currently serve as alternate members of the Audit Committee. Alternate members of the Audit Committee serve and participate in meetings of the

Audit Committee only in the event of an absence of a regular member of the Audit Committee. The Audit Committee met eight times during the last fiscal year. The Audit Committee has adopted a written charter that is available to stockholders on our website at [www.gladstonecapital.com](http://www.gladstonecapital.com).

Our Board has determined that all members and alternate members of our Audit Committee are independent (as independence is currently defined in Rule 5605(a)(2) of the NASDAQ listing standards). No members of the Audit Committee received any compensation from us during the last fiscal year other than directors' fees. Our Board has unanimously determined all Audit Committee members and alternate members are financially literate under current NASDAQ rules and that Messrs. Adalgren, Outland, Parker and Wilkinson and Meses. English and Merrick each qualify as an audit committee financial expert, as defined in applicable SEC rules. Our Board made a qualitative assessment of the members' level of knowledge and experience based on a number of factors, including formal education and experience. Messrs. Parker and Outland and Meses. English and Merrick also serve on the audit committees of Gladstone Commercial Corporation, Gladstone Land Corporation and Gladstone Investment Corporation. Our Audit Committee's current alternate members, Messrs. Adalgren and Wilkinson, also serve as alternate members on the audit committees of Gladstone Commercial Corporation, Gladstone Land Corporation and Gladstone Investment Corporation. Our Board has determined that this simultaneous service does not impair the respective directors' ability to effectively serve on our Audit Committee.

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### ***Compensation Committee***

The Compensation Committee operates pursuant to a written charter that is available to stockholders on our website at [www.gladstonecapital.com](http://www.gladstonecapital.com). The Compensation Committee conducts periodic reviews of our investment advisory and management agreement with our Adviser (the Advisory Agreement ) and our administration agreement with our Administrator (the Administration Agreement ) to evaluate whether the fees paid to our Adviser and our Administrator under the agreements are in the best interests of us and our stockholders. The committee considers in such periodic reviews, among other things, whether the fees paid to our Adviser and our Administrator are reasonable in relation to the nature and quality of services performed and whether the provisions of the Advisory and Administration Agreements are being satisfactorily performed. The Compensation Committee also reviews with management our Compensation Discussion and Analysis to consider whether to recommend that it be included in proxy statements and other filings. During the last fiscal year, the Compensation Committee was composed of Messrs. Outland (Chairperson), Adelgren and Wilkinson (with Mr. Wilkinson appointed to the committee in October 2014). Mr. Parker and Mses. English and Merrick currently serve as alternate members of the Compensation Committee. Alternate members of the Compensation Committee serve and participate in meetings of the Compensation Committee only in the event of an absence of a regular member of the Compensation Committee. The Compensation Committee met four times during the last fiscal year.

Our Board has determined that all members and alternate members of our Compensation Committee are independent (as independence is currently defined in Rule 5605(a)(2) of the NASDAQ listing standards). No members of the Compensation Committee received compensation from us during the last fiscal year other than directors' fees. Messrs. Outland, Adelgren and Wilkinson also serve on the compensation committees of Gladstone Commercial Corporation, Gladstone Land Corporation and Gladstone Investment Corporation. Our Compensation Committee's current alternate members, Mr. Parker and Ms. English also serve as alternate members on the compensation committees of Gladstone Commercial Corporation, Gladstone Land Corporation and Gladstone Investment Corporation. Our Board has determined that this simultaneous service does not impair the respective directors' ability to effectively serve on our Compensation Committee.

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

During the last fiscal year, the Compensation Committee was composed of Messrs. Outland (Chairperson), Adelgren and Wilkinson (appointed to the committee in October 2014). Mr. Parker and Mses. English and Merrick currently serve as alternate members of the Compensation Committee. None of the aforementioned persons have ever served as one of our executive officers. Further, none of our executive officers has ever served as a member of the compensation committee or as a director of another entity any of whose executive officers served on our Compensation Committee.

### ***Ethics, Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee***

The Ethics Committee is responsible for identifying, reviewing and evaluating candidates to serve as our directors (consistent with criteria approved by our Board), reviewing and evaluating incumbent directors, recommending to our Board for selection candidates for election to our Board, making recommendations to our Board regarding the membership of the committees of our Board, assessing the performance of our Board, and developing our corporate governance principles. Our Ethics Committee charter can be found on our website at [www.gladstonecapital.com](http://www.gladstonecapital.com). During fiscal year 2015, membership of the Ethics Committee was composed of Messrs. Adelgren (Chairperson), Outland and Wilkinson (appointed to the committee in October 2014). Mr. Parker and Mses. English and Merrick currently serve as alternate members of the committee. Alternate members of the Ethics Committee serve and participate in meetings of the committee only in the event of an absence of a regular member of the committee. Each member and alternate member of the Ethics Committee is independent (as independence is currently defined in

Rule 5605(a)(2) of the NASDAQ listing standards). The Ethics Committee met four times during the last fiscal year.

*Information Regarding the Process for Nominating Director Candidates*

The Ethics Committee believes that candidates for director should have certain minimum qualifications, including being able to read and understand basic financial statements, being over 21 years of age and having the highest personal integrity and ethics. The Ethics Committee also considers such factors as possessing relevant expertise upon which to be able to offer advice and guidance to management, having sufficient time to devote to our affairs, demonstrated excellence in his or her field, having the ability to exercise sound business judgment and having the commitment to rigorously represent the long-term interests of our stockholders. However, the Ethics Committee retains the right to modify these qualifications from time to time. Candidates for director nominees are reviewed in the context of the current composition of our Board, our operating requirements and the long-term interests of our stockholders.

Though we have no formal policy addressing diversity, the Ethics Committee and Board believe that diversity is an important attribute of directors and that our Board should be the culmination of an array of backgrounds and experiences and be capable of articulating a variety of viewpoints. Accordingly, the Ethics Committee considers in its review of director nominees factors such as values, disciplines, ethics, age, gender, race, culture, expertise, background and skills, all in the context of an assessment of our Board's perceived needs at that point in time in order to maintain a balance of knowledge, experience and capability.

In the case of incumbent directors whose terms of office are set to expire, the Ethics Committee reviews such directors overall service to us during their term, including the number of meetings attended, level of participation, quality of performance, and any

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other relationships and transactions that might impair such directors' independence. In the case of new director candidates, the Ethics Committee also determines whether such new nominee must be independent for NASDAQ purposes, which determination is based upon applicable NASDAQ listing standards, applicable SEC rules and regulations and the advice of counsel, if necessary. The Ethics Committee then uses its network of contacts to compile a list of potential candidates, but may also engage, if it deems appropriate, a professional search firm. The Ethics Committee conducts any appropriate and necessary inquiries into the backgrounds and qualifications of possible candidates after considering the function and needs of our Board. The Ethics Committee meets to discuss and consider such candidates' qualifications and then selects a nominee for recommendation to our Board by majority vote. To date, the Ethics Committee has not paid a fee to any third party to assist in the process of identifying or evaluating director candidates.

### *Stockholder Recommendation of Director Candidates to the Ethics, Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee*

The Ethics Committee will consider director candidates recommended by stockholders. The Ethics Committee does not intend to alter the manner in which it evaluates candidates, including the minimum criteria set forth above, based on whether the candidate was recommended by a stockholder or not. Stockholders who wish to recommend individuals for consideration by the Ethics Committee to become nominees for election to our Board may do so by delivering a written recommendation to our secretary at the address set forth on the cover page of this Proxy Statement and containing the information required by our Bylaws.

For nominations for election to our Board to be properly brought before an annual meeting by a stockholder, the stockholder must comply with the advance notice provisions and other requirements of Article II, Section 4 of our Bylaws. These notice provisions require that nominations for directors for the 2017 Annual Meeting must be received no earlier than November 13, 2016 (90 days before the first anniversary of our 2016 Annual Meeting of Stockholders) and not later than December 13, 2016 (60 days before the first anniversary of our 2016 Annual Meeting of Stockholders).

Submissions must include the full name of the proposed nominee, a description of the proposed nominee's business experience for at least the previous five years, complete biographical information, a description of the proposed nominee's qualifications as a director and a representation that the nominating stockholder is a beneficial or record owner of our stock. Any such submission must be accompanied by the written consent of the proposed nominee to be named as a nominee and to serve as a director if elected. To date, the Ethics Committee has not received or rejected a timely director nominee proposal from a stockholder or stockholders.

### *Stockholder Communications with the Board of Directors*

Our Board has adopted a formal process by which our stockholders may communicate with our Board or any of our directors. Persons interested in communicating their concerns or issues may address correspondence to our Board, to a particular director, or to the independent directors generally, in care of Gladstone Capital Corporation, Attention: Investor Relations, at 1521 Westbranch Drive, Suite 100, McLean, Virginia 22102. This information is also contained on our website at [www.gladstonecapital.com](http://www.gladstonecapital.com).

### *Code of Ethics*

We have adopted a Code of Business Conduct and Ethics (the "Code") that applies to all of our officers and directors and to the employees of our Adviser and our Administrator. The Ethics Committee reviews, approves and recommends to our Board any changes to the Code. It also reviews any violations of the Code and makes

recommendations to our Board on those violations. The Code is available on our website at [www.gladstonecapital.com](http://www.gladstonecapital.com). If we make any substantive amendments to the Code or grant any waiver from a provision of the Code to any executive officer or director, we will promptly disclose the nature of the amendment or waiver on our website.

#### ***The Executive Committee***

The Executive Committee, which is composed of Messrs. Gladstone (Chairman), Brubaker and Parker, has the authority to exercise all powers of our Board except for actions that must be taken by a majority of independent directors or the full Board under applicable rules and regulations. The Executive Committee did not meet during the last fiscal year.

#### ***The Offering Committee***

The Offering Committee, which is composed of Messrs. Gladstone (Chairman), Brubaker and Parker, with each of our other current and future independent directors serving as alternates for Mr. Parker, is responsible for assisting our Board in discharging its responsibilities regarding the offering from time to time of our securities. The Offering Committee has all powers of our Board that are necessary or appropriate and may lawfully be delegated to the Offering Committee in connection with an offering of our securities. Our Offering Committee was formed in January 2013, and operates pursuant to a written charter, which can be found in the Corporate Governance section of our website at [www.gladstonecapital.com](http://www.gladstonecapital.com). The Offering Committee did not meet during the last fiscal year.

#### ***The Valuation Committee***

The Valuation Committee, which is composed of Ms. Merrick (Chairman), and Messrs. Outland, Parker and Wilkinson, with each of our other current and future independent directors serving as alternates, is responsible for assisting the Board in determining the fair value of our investment portfolio or other assets in compliance with the Investment Company Act of 1940, as amended, and assisting the Board's compliance with legal and regulatory requirements, as well as risk management, related to valuation. The Valuation Committee was formed in July 2015, and operates pursuant to a written charter. The Valuation Committee met once during the last fiscal year.



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**Oversight of Risk Management**

Since September 2007, Jack Dellafiora has served as our chief compliance officer and, in that position, Mr. Dellafiora directly oversees our enterprise risk management function and reports to our chief executive officer, the Audit Committee and our Board in this capacity. In fulfilling his risk management responsibilities, Mr. Dellafiora works closely with our general counsel and other members of senior management including, among others, our chief executive officer, president, chief financial officer, treasurer and chief operating officer.

Our Board, in its entirety, plays an active role in overseeing management of our risks. Our Board regularly reviews information regarding our credit, liquidity and operations, as well as the risks associated with each. Each of the following committees of our Board plays a distinct role with respect to overseeing management of our risks:

*Audit Committee:* Our Audit Committee oversees the management of enterprise risks. To this end, our Audit Committee meets at least annually (i) to discuss our risk management guidelines, policies and exposures and (ii) with our independent registered public accounting firm to review our internal control environment and other risk exposures.

*Compensation Committee:* Our Compensation Committee oversees the management of risks relating to the fees paid to our Adviser and Administrator under the Advisory Agreement and the Administration Agreement, respectively. In fulfillment of this duty, the Compensation Committee meets at least annually to review these agreements. In addition, the Compensation Committee reviews the performance of our Adviser and our Administrator to determine whether the fees paid to our Adviser and Administrator were reasonable in relation to the nature and quality of services performed and whether the provisions of the Advisory Agreement and the Administration Agreement were being satisfactorily performed.

*Ethics, Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee:* Our Ethics Committee manages risks associated with the independence of our Board and potential conflicts of interest.

*Valuation Committee:* Our Valuation Committee manages risks associated with valuation of our investment portfolio and other assets. In addition the Valuation Committee facilitates communication between the Board, our senior and financial management and our independent public accountants related to valuation matters.

While each committee is responsible for evaluating certain risks and overseeing the management of such risks, the committees each report to our Board on a regular basis to apprise our Board regarding the status of remediation efforts of known risks and of any new risks that may have arisen since the previous report.

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**PROPOSAL 2**

**TO AUTHORIZE US, WITH THE APPROVAL OF OUR BOARD OF DIRECTORS, TO ISSUE AND SELL SHARES OF OUR COMMON STOCK (DURING THE NEXT 12 MONTHS) AT A PRICE BELOW ITS THEN CURRENT NET ASSET VALUE PER SHARE, SUBJECT TO CERTAIN LIMITATIONS SET FORTH HEREIN (INCLUDING, WITHOUT LIMITATION, THAT THE NUMBER OF SHARES ISSUED AND SOLD PURSUANT TO SUCH AUTHORITY DOES NOT EXCEED 25% OF OUR THEN OUTSTANDING COMMON STOCK IMMEDIATELY PRIOR TO EACH SUCH SALE)**

*Subject to Completion*

**Stockholder Authorization**

The 1940 Act generally prohibits us, as a business development company ( BDC ), from issuing and selling shares of our common stock at a price below the then current net asset value ( NAV ) per share, with certain exceptions. One such exception would permit us to issue and sell shares of our common stock at a price below NAV per share at the time of sale if our stockholders approve our ability to conduct such an offering within the one year period immediately prior to any such sale, provided that our Board makes certain determinations prior to any such sale.

Accordingly, we are seeking the approval of our stockholders so that we may, in one or more public or private offerings, issue and sell shares of our common stock at a price below our then current NAV per share. It should be noted that the maximum number of shares that we could issue and sell at a per share price below NAV per share pursuant to this authority would be limited to 25% of our then outstanding common stock immediately prior to each such sale. If approved, the authorization would be effective for a period expiring on the first anniversary of the date of the stockholders' approval of this proposal and would permit us to engage in such transactions at various times within that 12-month period, subject to further approval from our Board.

Generally, common stock offerings are priced based on the market prices of the outstanding shares of common stock. Because over the last two years our common stock has often, and at times significantly, traded at a market price below NAV per share, stockholder approval would permit us to issue and sell shares of our common stock in accordance with pricing standards that market conditions generally require, and would also assure stockholders that the number of shares issued and sold pursuant to such authority does not exceed 25% of our then outstanding common stock immediately prior to each such sale. If stockholders approve this proposal, we should have greater flexibility in taking advantage of changing market and financial conditions in connection with an equity offering.

On February 27, 2015, we entered into equity distribution agreements (commonly referred to as at-the-market agreements or sales agreements ) with KeyBanc Capital Markets Inc. and Cantor Fitzgerald & Co., each a Sales Agent , to issue securities through the sales agreements in an amount up to \$50 million. As of the date of this Proxy Statement, we may issue and sell, from time to time, through the Sales Agents, up to an aggregate offering price of approximately \$48.8 million shares of our common stock (the ATM Program ). We will not make any sales under our ATM Program until our registration statement is amended and becomes effective following the filing of our Annual Report on Form 10-K. Our Board determines quarterly the parameters under which such shares in the ATM Program may be sold at below the then current NAV and will determine next the parameters under which shares are to be sold at its January 2016 meeting.

The gross proceeds raised, the related sales agent commissions, the offering expenses and the average price at which shares have been issued under the ATM Program are as follows:

<b>Fiscal Year 2015 Issuance of Common Stock</b>	<b>Number of Shares</b>	<b>Gross Proceeds</b>	<b>Sales Commission</b>	<b>Offering Expense</b>	<b>Average Offering Price</b>
Second Quarter ended March 31, 2015	67,151	\$ 593,099	\$ 11,862	\$ 172,200	\$ 8.82
Third Quarter ended June 30, 2015	64,311	575,999	11,520	8,839	8.96
Fourth Quarter ended September 30, 2015*				63,973	
<b>Total</b>	<b>131,462</b>	<b>\$ 1,169,098</b>	<b>\$ 23,382</b>	<b>\$ 245,012</b>	<b>\$ 8.88</b>

\* No shares were sold under the ATM in the Fourth Quarter of fiscal year 2015.

The shares sold under the ATM Program were all sold at a discount to the then estimated net asset value ( NAV ) per share. The following chart documents all sales under the ATM Program:

<b>Settlement Date</b>	<b>Number of Shares Sold</b>	<b>Public Offering Price per Share</b>	<b>Estimated NAV Per Share at Issuance</b>	<b>Average Percentage Dilution</b>
March 10, 2015 - March 26, 2015	67,151	\$ 8.73-9.09	\$ 9.24-9.53	(0.01)%
April 2, 2015 - April 29, 2015	64,311	\$ 8.93-8.90	\$ 9.52-9.55	0.00%

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On October 30, 2015 and November 5, 2015, we closed a public offering of 2,300,000 shares of common stock at a price below the then current NAV per common share. The net dilutive effect of our issuance of common stock in this offering was \$[ ], or [ ]% per share.

**Reasons to Issue and Sell Common Stock Below NAV**

We believe that market conditions will continue to provide opportunities to invest new capital at potentially attractive returns. Although we are seeing increased stability over recent months, for the past several years, U.S. credit markets, including many lending institutions, have experienced significant difficulties resulting from the recent U.S. fiscal crisis and current lingering economic conditions from the 2008 recession. This has contributed to significant stock price volatility for capital providers such as our Company and has made access to capital more challenging for many smaller businesses. However, these changes in the credit market conditions also have beneficial effects for capital providers like us because small business are selling for lower prices, are generally willing to pay higher interest rates and to accept more contractual terms that are more favorable to us in their investment agreements. Accordingly, for firms that continue to have access to capital, we believe that the current environment should provide investment opportunities on more favorable terms than have been available in recent periods. Our ability to take advantage of these opportunities is dependent upon our access to equity capital.

As a BDC and a regulated investment company ( RIC ) for tax purposes, we are dependent on our ability to raise capital through the issuance of common stock. RICs generally must distribute substantially all of their earnings to stockholders as dividends in order to achieve pass-through tax treatment, which prevents us from using those earnings to support new investments. Further, BDCs must maintain an asset coverage ratio of 200% under the 1940 Act, which requires us to finance our investments with at least as much equity as debt in the aggregate. We maintain sources of liquidity through a portfolio of liquid assets and other means but generally attempt to remain close to fully invested and do not hold substantial cash for the purpose of making new investments. Therefore, to continue to build our investment portfolio, and thereby have the ability to support the maintenance of our dividends, we endeavor to maintain consistent access to capital through the public and private equity markets enabling us to take advantage of investment opportunities as they arise.

Furthermore, failing to maintain asset coverage ratio of at least 200% on senior securities representing indebtedness and 200% on senior securities that are stock could have severe negative consequences for a BDC, including the inability to pay distributions to its stockholders, breaching debt covenants and failure to qualify for tax treatment as a RIC. Although our Company does not currently expect that it will fail to maintain asset coverage of at least 200% with respect to senior securities representing indebtedness and with respect to senior securities that are stock as such asset coverage ratio is defined in the 1940 Act, the markets in which we operate and the economy remains volatile and uncertain. Continued volatility in the capital markets and the resulting negative pressure on debt investment valuations could negatively impact our Company's asset valuations, stockholders' equity and our Company's debt to equity ratio.

Since our initial public offering in 2001, our common stock has traded both at a premium and at a discount in relation to its NAV. The following table lists, for each quarter of the last three fiscal years, the high and low intraday sales prices for our common stock and the intraday sales price as a percentage of NAV. On December [ ], 2015, the last reported closing sale price of our common stock was \$[ ] per share.

<b>Premium / (Discount) of High</b>	<b>Premium / (Discount) of Low</b>
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	NAV(1)	Intraday Sales Price High	Low	Sales Price to NAV (2)	Sales Price to NAV (2)
<b><i>Fiscal Year ended September 30, 2013</i></b>					
First Quarter	\$ 9.17	\$ 9.02	\$ 7.25	(1.6)%	(20.9)%
Second Quarter	\$ 8.91	\$ 9.46	\$ 8.24	6.2%	(7.5)%
Third Quarter	\$ 8.60	\$ 9.45	\$ 7.76	9.9%	(9.8)%
Fourth Quarter	\$ 9.81	\$ 8.92	\$ 8.05	(9.1)%	(17.9)%
<b><i>Fiscal Year ended September 30, 2014</i></b>					
First Quarter	\$ 10.10	\$ 9.92	\$ 8.60	(1.8)%	(14.9)%
Second Quarter	\$ 9.79	\$ 10.37	\$ 9.27	5.9%	(5.3)%
Third Quarter	\$ 8.62	\$ 10.21	\$ 9.41	18.4%	9.2%
Fourth Quarter	\$ 9.51	\$ 10.27	\$ 8.06	8.0%	(15.2)%
<b><i>Fiscal Year ended September 30, 2015</i></b>					
First Quarter	\$ 9.31	\$ 9.41	\$ 8.02	1.1%	(13.9)%
Second Quarter	\$ 9.55	\$ 9.10	\$ 7.25	(4.7)%	(24.1)%
Third Quarter	\$ 9.49	\$ 8.99	\$ 7.84	(5.3)%	(17.4)%
Fourth Quarter	\$ [ ]	\$ 9.25	\$ 7.58	2.1%	(16.3)%

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- (1) NAV per share is determined as of the last day in the relevant quarter and, therefore, may not reflect the NAV per share on the date of the high and low intraday sales prices during such quarter. The per share NAVs shown above are based on outstanding shares at the end of each period.
- (2) Calculated as the difference between the NAV per share and the respective high or low intraday sales price, divided by NAV per share.

The current volatility in the credit market and the uncertainty surrounding the U.S. economy has led to significant stock market fluctuations, particularly with respect to the stock of financial services companies like our Company. During times of increased price volatility, our common stock may be more likely to trade at a price below its NAV per share, which is not uncommon for BDCs like us. As noted above, however, the current market dislocation has created, and we believe will continue to create, favorable opportunities to invest in small businesses, including opportunities that we believe may increase NAV over the longer-term, even if financed with the issuance of common stock below NAV per share. We expect that attractive investment opportunities will require us to make an investment commitment quickly. Because we generally attempt to remain fully invested and do not intend to maintain cash for the purpose of making these investments, we may be unable to capitalize on investment opportunities presented to us unless we are able to raise capital quickly. We believe that stockholder approval of the proposal to issue and sell shares below NAV per share subject to the conditions detailed below will provide us with the flexibility to invest in such opportunities.

Our Board believes that having the flexibility to possibly issue and sell shares of our common stock below NAV per share in certain instances is in the best interests of our Company and its stockholders and would provide added financial flexibility to comply with BDC, RIC and credit facility requirements our Company and its subsidiaries may face from time to time, including the requirement to maintain asset coverage of at least 200% on senior securities representing indebtedness and 200% on senior securities that are stock, and would provide access to capital markets to pursue attractive investment opportunities, repay any outstanding indebtedness or for other corporate purposes. The flexibility to issue and sell shares of our common stock below NAV per share could also minimize the likelihood that our Company would be required to sell assets that we would not otherwise sell, which sales could occur at times that are disadvantageous to our Company. Our Board further believes that having the flexibility to issue and sell our common stock below NAV per share in certain instances is in the best interests of stockholders. If we are unable to access the capital markets as attractive investment opportunities arise, our ability to grow over time and continue to pay steady or increasing dividends to stockholders could be adversely affected. It could also have the effect of forcing us to sell assets that we would not otherwise sell, and such sales could occur at times that are disadvantageous to sell. Our Board also believes that increasing our assets will lower our expense ratio by spreading our fixed costs over a larger asset base. The issuance and sale of additional common stock might also enhance the liquidity of our common stock on the NASDAQ Global Select Market. Additionally, while it is possible for a BDC to issue and sell its shares through a transferable rights offering at a price that is below NAV per share, such offerings may ultimately be at a discount greater than in an offering of our shares at a market price below our NAV per share, thus we believe that having the ability to issue and sell our common stock below NAV per share in accordance with the terms of this proposal would, in many instances, be preferable to such an issuance pursuant to a transferable rights offering.

## **Offerings Below NAV**

Sales by us of our common stock at a discount from NAV per share pose potential risks for our existing stockholders whether or not they participate in an offering, as well as for new investors who participate in the offering. Any sale of common stock at a price below NAV per share would result in an immediate dilution to existing common stockholders who do not participate in such sale on at least a pro-rata basis.

The following three headings and accompanying tables explain and provide hypothetical examples on the impact of an offering of our common stock at a price less than NAV per share on three different types of investors:

existing common stockholders who do not purchase any shares in an offering;

existing common stockholders who purchase a relatively small amount of shares in the offering or a relatively large amount of shares in an offering; and

new investors who become common stockholders by purchasing shares in an offering.

**Table of Contents****Impact on Existing Common Stockholders Who Do Not Participate in an Offering**

Our existing common stockholders who do not participate in an offering below NAV per share or who do not buy additional shares in the secondary market at the same or lower price we obtain in the offering (after expenses and commissions) face the greatest potential risks. These stockholders will experience an immediate decrease (often called dilution) in the NAV of the shares they hold and their NAV per share. These stockholders will also experience a disproportionately greater decrease in their participation in our earnings and assets and their voting power than the increase we will experience in our assets, potential earning power and voting interests due to the offering. These stockholders may also experience a decline in the market price of their shares, which often reflects to some degree announced or potential decreases in NAV per share. This decrease could be more pronounced as the size of the offering and level of discounts increase. Further, if current stockholders do not purchase sufficient shares to maintain their percentage interest, regardless of whether such offering is above or below the then current NAV, their voting power will be diluted.

The following table illustrates the level of NAV dilution that would be experienced by a nonparticipating stockholder in three different hypothetical offerings of different sizes and levels of discount from NAV per share, although it is not possible to predict the level of market price decline that may occur. Actual sales prices and discounts may differ from the presentation below.

The examples assume that we have 1,000,000 common shares outstanding, \$15,000,000 in total assets and \$5,000,000 in total liabilities. The current NAV and NAV per share are thus \$10,000,000 and \$10.00, respectively. The table illustrates the dilutive effect on a nonparticipating stockholder of (1) an offering of 50,000 shares (5% of the outstanding shares) at \$9.50 per share after offering expenses and commission (a 5% discount from NAV), (2) an offering of 100,000 shares (10% of the outstanding shares) at \$9.00 per share after offering expenses and commissions (a 10% discount from NAV) and (3) an offering of 250,000 shares (25% of the outstanding shares) at \$7.50 per share after offering expenses and commissions (a 25% discount from NAV). The prospectus or related prospectus supplement pursuant to which any discounted offering is made will include a chart based on the actual number of shares of common stock in such offering and the actual discount to the most recently determined NAV.

	<b>Example 1 5% Offering at 5% Discount</b>			<b>Example 2 10% Offering at 10% Discount</b>		<b>Example 3 25% Offering at 25% Discount</b>	
	<b>Prior to Sale Below NAV</b>	<b>Following Sale</b>	<b>% Change</b>	<b>Following Sale</b>	<b>% Change</b>	<b>Following Sale</b>	<b>% Change</b>
<b>Offering Price</b>							
Price per Share to Public		\$ 10.00		\$ 9.47		\$ 7.90	
Net Proceeds per Share to Issuer		\$ 9.50		\$ 9.00		\$ 7.50	
<b>Decrease to NAV per Share</b>							
Total Shares Outstanding.	1,000,000	1,050,000	5.00%	1,100,000	10.00%	1,250,000	25.00%
NAV per Share.	\$ 10.00	\$ 9.98	(0.20)%	\$ 9.91	(0.90)%	\$ 9.50	(5.00)%



<b>Dilution to Stockholder</b>							
Shares Held by Common Stockholder	10,000	10,000		10,000		10,000	
Percentage Held by Common Stockholder	1.0%	0.95%	(4.76)%	0.91%	(9.09)%	0.83%	(20.00)%
<b>Total Asset Values</b>							
Total NAV Held by Common Stockholder	\$ 100,000	\$ 99,800	(0.20)%	\$ 99,100	(0.90)%	\$ 95,000	(5.00)%
Total Investment by Common Stockholder (Assumed to be \$10.00 per Share)	\$ 100,000	\$ 100,000		\$ 100,000		\$ 100,000	
Total Dilution to Common Stockholder (Total NAV Less Total Investment)		\$ (200)		\$ (900)		\$ (5,000)	
<b>Per Share Amounts</b>							
NAV Per Share Held by Common Stockholder		\$ 9.98		\$ 9.91		\$ 9.50	
Investment per Share Held by Common Stockholder (Assumed to be \$10.00 per Share on Shares Held prior to Sale)	\$ 10.00	\$ 10.00		\$ 10.00		\$ 10.00	
Dilution per Share Held by Common Stockholder (NAV per Share Less Investment per Share)		\$ (0.02)		\$ (0.09)		\$ (0.50)	
Percentage Dilution to Common Stockholder (Dilution per Share Divided by Investment per Share)			(0.20)%		(0.90)%		(5.00)%

### **Impact on Existing Common Stockholders Who Do Participate in an Offering**

Our existing common stockholders who participate in an offering below NAV per share or who buy additional shares in the secondary market at the same or lower price as we obtain in the offering (after expenses and commissions) will experience the same types of NAV dilution as the nonparticipating common stockholders, albeit at a lower level, to the extent they purchase less than the same percentage of the discounted offering as their interest in our shares immediately prior to the offering. The level of NAV dilution will decrease as the number of shares such common stockholder purchases increases. Existing common stockholders who buy more than such percentage will experience NAV dilution but will, in contrast to existing common stockholders who purchase less than their proportionate share of the offering, experience an increase (often called accretion) in NAV per share over their investment per share and will also experience a disproportionately greater increase in their participation in our earnings and assets and their voting power than our increase in assets, potential earning power and voting interests due to an offering. The level of accretion will increase as the

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excess number of shares such common stockholder purchases increases. Even a common stockholder who over-participates will, however, be subject to the risk that we may make additional discounted offerings in which such stockholder does not participate, in which case such a stockholder will experience NAV dilution as described above in such subsequent offerings. These stockholders may also experience a decline in the market price of their shares, which often reflects to some degree announced or potential decreases in NAV per share. This decrease could be more pronounced as the size of an offering and level of discount to NAV increases.

The following chart illustrates the level of dilution and accretion in the hypothetical 25% discount offering from the prior chart for a common stockholder that acquires shares equal to (1) 50% of its proportionate share of an offering (i.e., 1,250 shares, which is 0.50% of an offering of 250,000 shares rather than its 1% proportionate share) and (2) 150% of such percentage (i.e., 3,750 shares, which is 1.50% of an offering of 250,000 shares rather than its 1% proportionate share). The prospectus or related prospectus supplement pursuant to which any discounted offering is made will include a chart for this example based on the actual number of shares in such offering and the actual discount from the most recently determined NAV per share. It is not possible to predict the level of market price decline that may occur.

	Prior to Sale Below NAV	50% Participation		150% Participation	
		Following Sale	% Change	Following Sale	% Change
<b>Offering Price</b>					
Price per Share to Public		\$ 7.90		\$ 7.90	
Net Proceeds per Share to Issuer		\$ 7.50		\$ 7.50	
<b>Increases in Shares and Decrease to NAV per Share</b>					
Total Shares Outstanding	1,000,000	1,250,000	25.00%	1,250,000	25.00%
NAV per Share	\$ 10.00	\$ 9.50	(5.00)%	\$ 9.50	(5.00)%
<b>Dilution/Accretion to Stockholder</b>					
Shares Held by Common Stockholder	10,000	11,250	12.50%	13,750	37.50%
Percentage Held by Common Stockholder	1.0%	0.90%	(10.00)%	1.10%	10.00%
<b>Total Asset Values</b>					
Total NAV Held by Common Stockholder	\$ 100,000	\$ 106,875	6.88%	\$ 130,625	30.63%
Total Investment by Common Stockholder (Assumed to be \$10.00 per Share on Shares Held prior to Sale)	\$ 100,000	\$ 109,875		\$ 129,625	
Total Dilution/Accretion to Common Stockholder (Total NAV Less Total Investment)		(3,000)		\$ 1,000	
<b>Per Share Amounts</b>					
NAV Per Share Held by Common Stockholder		\$ 9.50		\$ 9.50	
Investment per Share Held by Common Stockholder (Assumed to be \$10.00 per Share on Shares Held prior to Sale)	\$ 10.00	\$ 9.77	(2.33)%	\$ 9.43	(5.73)%

Dilution/Accretion per Share Held by Common Stockholder (NAV per Share Less Investment per Share)	\$ (0.27)	\$ 0.07
Percentage Dilution/Accretion to Common Stockholder (Dilution/Accretion per Share Divided by Investment per Share)	(2.73)%	0.77%
<b>Impact on New Investors in Our Common Stock</b>		

Investors who are not currently common stockholders, but who participate in an offering below NAV and whose investment per share is greater than the resulting NAV per share (due to selling compensation and expenses paid by us) will experience an immediate decrease, albeit small, in the NAV of their shares and their NAV per share compared to the price they pay for their shares. Investors who are not currently common stockholders and who participate in an offering below NAV per share and whose investment per share is also less than the resulting NAV per share due to selling compensation and expenses paid by the issuer being significantly less than the discount per share will experience an immediate increase in the NAV of their shares and their NAV per share compared to the price they pay for their shares. These investors will experience a disproportionately greater participation in our earnings and assets and their voting power than our increase in assets, potential earning power and voting interests. These investors will, however, be subject to the risk that we may make additional discounted offerings in which such new common stockholder does not participate, in which case such new common stockholder will experience dilution as described above in such subsequent offerings. These investors may also experience a decline in the market price of their shares, which often reflects to some degree announced or potential decreases in NAV per share. This decrease could be more pronounced as the size of an offering and level of discounts increases.

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The following chart illustrates the level of dilution or accretion for new investors that would be experienced by a new investor in the same 5%, 10% and 25% discounted offerings as described in the first chart above. The illustration is for a new investor who purchases the same percentage (1%) of the common shares in the offering as the stockholder in the prior examples held immediately prior to the offering. The prospectus or related prospectus supplement pursuant to which any discounted offering is made will include a chart for this example based on the actual number of shares in such offering and the actual discount from the most recently determined NAV per share. It is not possible to predict the level of market price decline that may occur.

	Prior to Sale Below NAV	Example 1 5% Offering at 5% Discount		Example 2 10% Offering at 10% Discount		Example 3 25% Offering at 25% Discount	
		Following Sale	% Change	Following Sale	% Change	Following Sale	% Change
<b>Offering Price</b>							
Price per Share to Public		\$ 10.00		\$ 9.47		\$ 7.90	
Net Proceeds per Share to Issuer		\$ 9.50		\$ 9.00		\$ 7.50	
<b>Decrease to NAV per Share</b>							
Total Shares Outstanding	1,000,000	1,050,000	5.00%	1,100,000	10.00%	1,250,000	25.00%
NAV per Share	\$ 10.00	\$ 9.98	(0.20)%	\$ 9.91			