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Paramount Group, Inc.  
Form 10-K  
February 22, 2017

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UNITED STATES

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20549

FORM 10-K

ANNUAL REPORT PURSUANT TO SECTION 13 OR 15(d) OF THE SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934  
For the Fiscal Year Ended: December 31, 2016

OR

TRANSITION REPORT PURSUANT TO SECTION 13 OR 15(d) OF THE SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF  
1934

For the transition period from                      To

Commission File Number: 001-36746

PARAMOUNT GROUP, INC.

(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

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Maryland 32-0439307  
(State or other jurisdiction of (IRS Employer  
incorporation or organization) Identification No.)

1633 Broadway, Suite 1801, New York, NY 10019  
(Address of principal executive offices) (Zip Code)

Registrant's telephone number, including area code: (212) 237-3100

Securities registered pursuant to section 12(b) of the Act:

Title of each class	Name of each exchange on which registered
Common Stock, \$0.01 par value per share	New York Stock Exchange

Securities registered pursuant to section 12(g) of the Act:

Title of each class

None

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Indicate by check mark if the registrant is a well-known seasoned issuer, as defined in Rule 405 of the Securities Act. YES NO

Indicate by check mark if the registrant is not required to file reports pursuant to Section 13 or Section 15(d) of the Act. YES NO

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant (1) has filed all reports required to be filed by Section 13 or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 during the preceding 12 months (or for such shorter period that the registrant was required to file such reports), and (2) has been subject to such filing requirements for the past 90 days. YES NO

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant has submitted electronically and posted on its corporate Website, if any, every Interactive Data File required to be submitted and posted pursuant to Rule 405 of Regulation S-T (Section 232.405 of this chapter) during the preceding 12 months (or for such shorter period that the registrant was required to submit and post such files). YES NO

Indicate by check mark if disclosure of delinquent filers pursuant to Item 405 of Regulation S-K (Section 229.405 of this chapter) is not contained herein, and will not be contained, to the best of the registrant's knowledge, in definitive proxy or information statements incorporated by reference in Part III of this Form 10-K or any amendment to this Form 10-K.

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant is a large accelerated filer, accelerated filer, a non-accelerated filer, or a smaller reporting company. See the definitions of "large accelerated filer," "accelerated filer" and "smaller reporting company" in Rule 12b-2 of the Exchange Act.

Large Accelerated Filer	Accelerated Filer
Non-Accelerated Filer (Do not check if smaller reporting company)	Smaller Reporting Company

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant is a shell company (as defined in Rule 12b-2 of the Act). YES NO

As of January 27, 2017, there were 230,668,694 shares of the registrant's common stock outstanding.

As of June 30, 2016, the aggregate market value of the 185,936,093 shares of common stock held by non-affiliates of the Registrant was \$2,963,821,000 based on the June 30, 2016 closing share price of our common stock of \$15.94 per share on the New York Stock Exchange.

DOCUMENTS INCORPORATED BY REFERENCE

Portions of the Proxy Statement for the Annual Stockholders' Meeting (which is scheduled to be held on May 18, 2017) to be filed within 120 days after the end of the registrant's fiscal year are incorporated by reference in Part III of this Annual Report on Form 10-K.

This Annual Report on Form 10-K includes financial statements required under Rule 3-09 of Regulation S-X, for 712 Fifth Avenue, L.P. and Paramount Group Real Estate Fund VII, LP.

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(1)

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These items are omitted in whole or in part because the registrant will file a definitive Proxy Statement pursuant to Regulation 14A under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 with the Securities and Exchange Commission no later than 120 days after December 31, 2016, portions of which are incorporated by reference herein.

## Forward-Looking Statements

We make statements in this Annual Report on Form 10-K that are considered “forward-looking statements” within the meaning of Section 27A of the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, or the Securities Act, and Section 21E of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended, or the Exchange Act, which are usually identified by the use of words such as “anticipates,” “believes,” “estimates,” “expects,” “intends,” “may,” “plans,” “projects,” “seeks,” “should,” “will,” and such words or similar expressions. We intend these forward-looking statements to be covered by the safe harbor provisions for forward-looking statements contained in the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995 and are including this statement for purposes of complying with those safe harbor provisions. These forward-looking statements reflect our current views about our plans, intentions, expectations, strategies and prospects, which are based on the information currently available to us and on assumptions we have made. Although we believe that our plans, intentions, expectations, strategies and prospects as reflected in or suggested by those forward-looking statements are reasonable, we can give no assurance that the plans, intentions, expectations or strategies will be attained or achieved. Furthermore, actual results may differ materially from those described in the forward-looking statements and will be affected by a variety of risks and factors that are beyond our control including, without limitation:

- unfavorable market and economic conditions in the United States and globally and in New York City, Washington, D.C. and San Francisco;
- risks associated with our high concentrations of properties in New York City, Washington, D.C. and San Francisco;
- risks associated with ownership of real estate;
- decreased rental rates or increased vacancy rates;
- the risk we may lose a major tenant;
- limited ability to dispose of assets because of the relative illiquidity of real estate investments;
- intense competition in the real estate market that may limit our ability to acquire attractive investment opportunities and increase the costs of those opportunities;
- insufficient amounts of insurance;
- uncertainties and risks related to adverse weather conditions, natural disasters and climate change;
- risks associated with actual or threatened terrorist attacks;
- exposure to liability relating to environmental and health and safety matters;
- high costs associated with compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act;
- failure of acquisitions to yield anticipated results;
- risks associated with real estate activity through our joint ventures and private equity real estate funds;
- general volatility of the capital and credit markets and the market price of our common stock;
- exposure to litigation or other claims;
- loss of key personnel;
- risks associated with security breaches through cyber attacks or cyber intrusions and other significant disruptions of our information technology (IT) networks and related systems;
- risks associated with our substantial indebtedness;
- failure to refinance current or future indebtedness on favorable terms, or at all;
- failure to meet the restrictive covenants and requirements in our existing debt agreements;
  - fluctuations in interest rates and increased costs to refinance or issue new debt;
- risks associated with variable rate debt, derivatives or hedging activity;

risks associated with future sales of our common stock by our continuing investors or the perception that our continuing investors intend to sell substantially all of the shares of our common stock that they hold;  
risks associated with the market for our common stock;  
failure to qualify as a REIT;  
compliance with REIT requirements, which may cause us to forgo otherwise attractive opportunities or liquidate certain of our investments; or  
any of the other risks included in this Annual Report on Form 10-K, including those set forth under the heading “Risk Factors.”

Accordingly, there is no assurance that our expectations will be realized. Except as otherwise required by the U.S. federal securities laws, we disclaim any obligations or undertaking to publicly release any updates or revisions to any forward-looking statement contained herein (or elsewhere) to reflect any change in our expectations with regard thereto or any change in events, conditions or circumstances on which any such statement is based. The reader should review carefully our financial statements and the notes thereto, as well as Item 1A entitled “Risk Factors” in this report.

## PART I

### ITEM 1. BUSINESS

#### General

Paramount Group, Inc. (“Paramount”) is a fully-integrated real estate investment trust (“REIT”) focused on owning, operating, managing, acquiring and redeveloping high-quality, Class A office properties in select central business district submarkets of New York City, Washington, D.C. and San Francisco. We conduct our business through, and substantially all our interests in properties and investments are held by, Paramount Group Operating Partnership LP, a Delaware limited partnership (the “Operating Partnership”). We are the sole general partner of, and owned approximately 87.0% of, the Operating Partnership as of December 31, 2016. As of December 31, 2016, our portfolio consisted of 13 Class A office properties aggregating approximately 10.8 million square feet that was 93.3% leased and 90.9% occupied. All references to “we,” “us,” “our,” the “Company” and “Paramount” refer to Paramount Group, Inc. and its consolidated subsidiaries, including the Operating Partnership.

We were incorporated in Maryland as a corporation on April 14, 2014 to continue the business of our Predecessor, as defined in Item 7. Management’s Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations – Our Predecessor, and did not have any meaningful operations until the acquisition of substantially all of the assets of our Predecessor and assets of the real estate funds that it controlled, as well as the interests of unaffiliated third parties in certain properties. Our properties were acquired through a series of Formation Transactions (the “Formation Transactions”) concurrently with our initial public offering of 150,650,000 common shares at a public offering price of \$17.50 per share on November 24, 2014 (the “Offering”).

#### Our Competitive Strengths

We believe that we distinguish ourselves from other owners and operators of office properties through the following competitive strengths:

**Premier Portfolio of High-Quality Office Properties in the Most Desirable Submarkets.** We have assembled a premier portfolio of Class A office properties located exclusively in carefully selected submarkets of New York City, Washington, D.C. and San Francisco. Our submarkets are among the strongest commercial real estate submarkets in the United States for office properties due to a combination of their high barriers to entry, constrained supply, strong economic characteristics and a deep pool of prospective tenants in various industries that have demonstrated a strong demand for high-quality office space. Our markets are international business centers, characterized by a broad tenant base with a highly educated workforce, a mature and functional transportation infrastructure and an overall amenity rich environment. These markets are home to a diverse range of large and growing enterprises in a variety of industries, including financial services, media and entertainment, consulting, legal and other professional services,

technology, as well as federal government agencies. As a result of the above factors, the submarkets in which we are invested have generally outperformed the broader markets in which they are located.

**Strong Internal Growth Prospects.** We have substantial embedded rent growth within our portfolio as a result of the strong historical and projected future rental rate growth within our submarkets, contractual fixed rental rate increases included in our leases and incremental rent from the lease-up of our portfolio. Our portfolio occupancy was 90.9% as of December 31, 2016; we believe this presents us with a meaningful growth opportunity as we lease-up our portfolio given the strong office market fundamentals in the markets in which we operate.

**Demonstrated Acquisition and Operational Expertise.** Over the past 20 years, we have developed and refined our highly successful real estate investment strategy. We have a proven reputation as a value-enhancing, hands-on operator of Class A office properties. We target opportunities with a value-add component, where we can leverage our operating expertise, deep tenant relationships, and proactive approach to asset and property management. In certain instances, we may acquire properties with existing or expected future vacancy or with significant value embedded in existing below-market leases, which we will be able to mark-to-market over time. Even fully leased properties from time to time present us with value-enhancing opportunities which we have been able to capitalize on in the past.

**Deep Relationships with Diverse, High Credit-Quality Tenant Base.** We have long-standing relationships with high-quality tenants, including Allianz Global Investors, LP, Barclays Capital, Inc., Clifford Chance LLP, Morgan Stanley, Credit Agricole Corporate & Investment Bank, Chadbourne & Parke, LLP, Showtime Networks Inc., TD Bank, N.A., Warner Music Group, Google Inc. and the U.S. Federal Government.

◆ **Value-Add Renovation and Repositioning and Development Capabilities.** We have expertise in renovating, repositioning and developing office properties. We have historically acquired well-located assets that have either suffered from a need for physical improvement to upgrade the property to Class A space, have been underperforming due to a lack of a coherent leasing and branding strategy or have been under-managed and could be immediately enhanced by our hands-on approach. We are experienced in upgrading, renovating and modernizing building lobbies, corridors, bathrooms, elevator cabs and base building systems and updating antiquated spaces to include new ceilings, lighting and other amenities. We have also successfully aggregated and are continuing to combine smaller spaces to offer larger blocks of space, including multiple floors, which are attractive to larger, high credit-quality tenants. We believe that the post-renovation quality of our buildings and our hands-on asset and property management approach attract high credit-quality tenants and allow us to increase our cash flow.

◆ **Seasoned and Committed Management Team with Proven Track Record.** Our senior management team, led by Albert Behler, our Chairman, Chief Executive Officer and President, has been in the commercial real estate industry for an average of 28 years, and has worked at our company for over 17 years. Our senior management team is highly regarded in the real estate community and has extensive relationships with a broad range of brokers, owners, tenants and lenders. We have developed relationships that enable us to secure high credit-quality tenants on attractive terms and provide us with potential off-market acquisition opportunities. We believe that our proven acquisition and operating expertise enables us to gain advantages over our competitors through superior acquisition sourcing, focused leasing programs, active asset and property management and first-class tenant service.

◆ **Conservative Balance Sheet.** Over the past several decades, we have built strong relationships with numerous lenders, investors and other capital providers. Our financing track record and depth of relationships provide us with significant financial flexibility and capacity to fund future growth in both good and bad economic environments. We have a strong capital structure that supports this flexibility and growth. As of December 31, 2016, our share of net debt to enterprise value was 42.5% and we had \$163.0 million of cash and cash equivalents and a \$1.0 billion revolving credit facility, with \$230.0 million drawn as of December 31, 2016.

◆ **Proven Investment Management Business.** We have a successful investment management business, where we serve as the general partner and property manager of certain private equity real estate funds for institutional investors and high-net-worth individuals. We have also entered into a number of joint ventures with institutional investors, high-net-worth individuals and other sophisticated real estate investors through which we and our funds have invested in real estate properties. We expect our investment management business to be a complementary part of our overall real estate investment business.

## Objectives and Strategy

Our primary business objective is to enhance shareholder value by increasing cash flow from operations. The strategies we intend to execute to achieve this objective include:

Leasing vacant and expiring space at market rents;

Maintaining a disciplined acquisition strategy focused on owning and operating Class A office properties in select central business district submarkets of New York City, Washington, D.C. and San Francisco;

Redeveloping and repositioning properties to increase returns; and

Proactively managing our portfolio to increase occupancy and rental rates.

### Significant Tenants

None of our tenants accounted for more than 10% of total revenues in the years ended December 31, 2016, 2015 and 2014.

## Segments

Our determination of segments is primarily based on our method of internal reporting. On January 1, 2016, as a result of certain organizational and operational changes, we redefined our reportable segments to be aligned with our method of internal reporting and the way our Chief Executive Officer, who is also our Chief Operating Decision Maker, makes key operating decisions, evaluates financial results and manages our business. Accordingly, our reportable segments were separated by region based on the three regions in which we conduct our business: New York, Washington, D.C. and San Francisco. In connection therewith, we have reclassified the prior period segment financial data to conform to the current period presentation.

Our Predecessor historically operated an integrated business that consisted of three reportable segments, (i) Owned Properties, (ii) Managed Funds and (iii) a Management Company. The Owned Properties segment consisted of properties in which our Predecessor had a direct or indirect ownership interest, other than properties that it owned through its private equity real estate funds. The Managed Funds segment consisted of the private equity real estate funds. In addition, our Predecessor included a Management Company that performed property management and asset management services and certain general and administrative level functions, including legal and accounting, as a separate reportable segment. See Note 26, Segments Disclosure, to our combined consolidated financial statements in this Annual Report on Form 10-K for further information on our and our Predecessor's reportable segments.

## Employees

As of December 31, 2016, we had 334 employees, including 93 corporate employees and 241 on-site building and property management personnel. Certain of our employees are covered by collective bargaining agreements.

## Insurance

We carry commercial general liability coverage on our properties, with limits of liability customary within the industry. Similarly, we are insured against the risk of direct and indirect physical damage to our properties including coverage for the perils of floods, earthquakes and windstorms. Our policies also cover the loss of rental income during an estimated reconstruction period. Our policies reflect limits and deductibles customary in the industry and specific to the buildings and portfolio. We also obtain title insurance policies when acquiring new properties. We currently have coverage for losses incurred in connection with both domestic and foreign terrorist-related activities. While we do carry commercial general liability insurance, property insurance and terrorism insurance with respect to our properties, these policies include limits and terms we consider commercially reasonable. In addition, there are certain losses (including, but not limited to, losses arising from known environmental conditions or acts of war) that are not

insured, in full or in part, because they are either uninsurable or the cost of insurance makes it, in our belief, economically impractical to maintain such coverage. Should an uninsured loss arise against us, we would be required to use our own funds to resolve the issue, including litigation costs. We believe the policy specifications and insured limits are adequate given the relative risk of loss, the cost of the coverage and industry practice and, in consultation with our insurance advisors, we believe the properties in our portfolio are adequately insured.

## Competition

The leasing of real estate is highly competitive in markets in which we operate. We compete with numerous acquirers, developers, owners and operators of commercial real estate, many of which own or may seek to acquire or develop properties similar to ours in the same markets in which our properties are located. The principal means of competition are rent charged, location, services provided and the nature and condition of the facility to be leased. In addition, we face competition from other real estate companies including other REITs, private real estate funds, domestic and foreign financial institutions, life insurance companies, pension trusts, partnerships, individual investors and others that may have greater financial resources or access to capital than we do or that are willing to acquire properties in transactions which are more highly leveraged or are less attractive from a financial viewpoint than we are willing to pursue. If our competitors offer space at rental rates below current market rates, below the rental rates we currently charge our tenants, in better locations within our markets or in higher quality facilities, we may lose potential tenants and we may be pressured to reduce our rental rates below those we currently charge in order to retain tenants when our tenants' leases expire.

## Environmental and Related Matters

Under various federal, state and/or local laws, ordinances and regulations, as a current or former owner or operator of real property, we may be liable for costs and damages resulting from the presence or release of hazardous substances, waste, or petroleum products at, on, in, under or from such property, including costs for investigation or remediation, natural resource damages, or third-party liability for personal injury or property damage. These laws often impose liability without regard to whether the owner or operator knew of, or was responsible for, the presence or release of such materials, and the liability may be joint and several. Some of our properties have been or may be impacted by contamination arising from current or prior uses of the property or adjacent properties for commercial, industrial or other purposes. Such contamination may arise from spills of petroleum or hazardous substances or releases from tanks used to store such materials. We also may be liable for the costs of remediating contamination at off-site disposal or treatment facilities when we arrange for disposal or treatment of hazardous substances at such facilities, without regard to whether we comply with environmental laws in doing so. The presence of contamination or the failure to remediate contamination on our properties may adversely affect our ability to attract and/or retain tenants, and our ability to develop or sell or borrow against those properties. In addition to potential liability for cleanup costs, private plaintiffs may bring claims for personal injury, property damage or for similar reasons. Environmental laws also may create liens on contaminated sites in favor of the government for damages and costs it incurs to address such contamination. Moreover, if contamination is discovered on our properties, environmental laws may impose restrictions on the manner in which that property may be used or how businesses may be operated on that property.

Some of our properties may be adjacent to or near other properties used for industrial or commercial purposes or that have contained or currently contain underground storage tanks used to store petroleum products or other hazardous or toxic substances. Releases from these properties could impact our properties. While certain properties contain or contained uses that could have or have impacted our properties, we are not aware of any liabilities related to environmental contamination that we believe will have a material adverse effect on our operations.

In addition, our properties are subject to various federal, state and local environmental and health and safety laws and regulations. Noncompliance with these environmental and health and safety laws and regulations could subject us or our tenants to liability. These liabilities could affect a tenant's ability to make rental payments to us. Moreover, changes in laws could increase the potential costs of compliance with such laws and regulations or increase liability for noncompliance. This may result in significant unanticipated expenditures or may otherwise materially and adversely affect our operations, or those of our tenants, which could in turn have a material adverse effect on us. We sometimes require our tenants to comply with environmental and health and safety laws and regulations and to indemnify us for any related liabilities in our leases with them. But in the event of the bankruptcy or inability of any of our tenants to satisfy such obligations, we may be required to satisfy such obligations. We are not presently aware of any instances of material noncompliance with environmental or health and safety laws or regulations at our properties, and we believe that we and/or our tenants have all material permits and approvals necessary under current laws and regulations to operate our properties.

As the owner or operator of real property, we may also incur liability based on various building conditions. For example, buildings and other structures on properties that we currently own or operate or those we acquire or operate

in the future contain, may contain, or may have contained, asbestos-containing material (“ACM”). Environmental and health and safety laws require that ACM be properly managed and maintained and may impose fines or penalties on owners, operators or employers for noncompliance with those requirements. These requirements include special precautions, such as removal, abatement or air monitoring, if ACM would be disturbed during maintenance, renovation or demolition of a building, potentially resulting in substantial costs. In addition, we may be subject to liability for personal injury or property damage sustained as a result of releases of ACM into the environment. We are not presently aware of any material liabilities related to building conditions, including any instances of material noncompliance with asbestos requirements or any material liabilities related to asbestos. In addition, our properties may contain or develop harmful mold or suffer from other indoor air quality issues, which could lead to liability for adverse health effects or property damage or costs for remediation. When excessive moisture accumulates in buildings or on building materials, mold growth may occur, particularly if the moisture problem remains undiscovered or is not addressed over a period of time. Some molds may produce airborne toxins or irritants. Indoor air quality issues can also stem from inadequate ventilation, chemical contamination from indoor or outdoor sources, and other biological contaminants such as pollen, viruses and bacteria. Indoor exposure to airborne toxins or irritants above certain levels can be alleged to cause a variety of adverse health effects and symptoms, including allergic or other reactions. As a result, the presence of significant mold or other airborne contaminants at any of our properties could require us to undertake a costly remediation program to contain or remove the mold or other airborne contaminants from the affected property or increase indoor ventilation. In addition, the presence of significant mold or other airborne contaminants could expose us to liability from our tenants, employees of our tenants or others if property damage or personal injury occurs. We are not presently aware of any material adverse indoor air quality issues at our properties.

#### Americans with Disabilities Act (“ADA”)

Our properties must comply with Title III of the ADA to the extent that such properties are “public accommodations” as defined by the ADA. The ADA may require removal of structural barriers to access by persons with disabilities in certain public areas of our properties where such removal is readily achievable. We believe the existing properties are in substantial compliance with the ADA and that we will not be required to make substantial capital expenditures to address the requirements of the ADA. However, noncompliance with the ADA could result in imposition of fines or an award of damages to private litigants. The obligation to make readily achievable accommodations is an ongoing one, and we will continue to assess our properties and make alterations as appropriate in this respect.

#### Executive Office

Our principal executive offices are located at 1633 Broadway, Suite 1801, New York, NY 10019; telephone (212) 237-3100.

#### Available Information

Copies of our Annual Report on Form 10-K, Quarterly Reports on Form 10-Q, Current Reports on Form 8-K, and amendments to these reports filed or furnished pursuant to Section 13(a) or 15(d) of the Exchange Act, are available free of charge on our website ([www.paramount-group.com](http://www.paramount-group.com)) as soon as reasonably practicable after they are electronically filed with, or furnished to, the Securities and Exchange Commission (“SEC”). You may also obtain our reports by accessing the EDGAR database at the SEC’s website at <http://www.sec.gov> or copies of these documents are also available directly from us, free of charge upon written request to Investor Relations, 1633 Broadway, Suite 1801, New York, NY 10019; telephone (212) 237-3100. Also available on our website are copies of our (i) Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee Charter, (ii) Corporate Governance Guidelines, (iii) Compensation Committee Charter, (iv) Code of Business Conduct and Ethics, (v) Audit Committee Charter and (vi) Stockholder Communication Policy. In the event of any changes to these items, revised copies will be made available on our website.



Supplemental Tax Disclosures – Updates to REIT Rules

The “Protecting Americans from Tax Hikes Act of 2015” (the “PATH Act”) was enacted on December 18, 2015 and contains several provisions pertaining to REIT qualification and taxation, which are briefly summarized below:

- ✦ For taxable years beginning after December 31, 2015, the PATH Act expanded the exclusion of certain hedging income from the REIT gross income tests to include income from hedges or previously acquired hedges that a REIT entered into to manage risk associated with liabilities or property that have been extinguished or disposed.
- ✦ For taxable years beginning before January 1, 2018, no more than 25% of the value of our assets may consist of stock or securities of one or more taxable REIT subsidiaries. For taxable years beginning after December 31, 2017, the PATH Act reduced this limit to 20%. As of December 31, 2015, the securities we own in our taxable REIT subsidiaries do not, in the aggregate, exceed 20% of the total value of our assets.
- ✦ For taxable years beginning after December 31, 2015, for purposes of the REIT asset tests, the PATH Act provides that debt instruments issued by publicly traded REITs will constitute “real estate assets.” However, unless such a debt instrument is secured by a mortgage or otherwise would have qualified as a real estate asset under prior law, (i) interest income and gain from such a debt instrument is not qualifying income for purposes of the 75% gross income test and (ii) all such debt instruments may represent no more than 25% of the value of our total assets.
- ✦ For taxable years beginning after December 31, 2015, certain obligations secured by a mortgage on both real property and personal property will be treated as a qualifying real estate asset and give rise to qualifying income for purposes of the 75% gross income test if the fair market value of such personal property does not exceed 15% of the total fair market value of all such property.
- ✦ A 100% excise tax is imposed on “redetermined TRS service income,” which is income of a taxable REIT subsidiary attributable to services provided to, or on behalf of, its associated REIT and which would otherwise be increased on distribution, apportionment, or allocation under Section 482 of the Code.
- ✦ For distributions made in taxable years beginning after December 31, 2014, the preferential dividend rules no longer apply to us.
  - Additional exceptions to the rules under the Foreign Investment in Real Property Tax Act (“FIRPTA”) were introduced for non-U.S. persons that constitute “qualified shareholders” (within the meaning of Section 897(k)(3) of the Code) or “qualified foreign pension funds” (within the meaning of Section 897(l)(2) of the Code).
- ✦ After February 16, 2016, the FIRPTA withholding rate under Section 1445 of the Code for dispositions of U.S. real property interests is increased from 10% to 15%.
- ✦ The PATH Act increased from 5% to 10% the maximum stock ownership of the REIT that a non-U.S. shareholder may have held to avail itself of the FIRPTA exception for shares regularly traded on an established securities market.
- ✦ For assets we acquired from a C corporation in a carry-over basis transaction, the PATH Act, as confirmed by recently-issued Treasury Regulations, permanently reduced the recognition period during which we could be subject to corporate tax on any built-in gains recognized on the sale of such assets from 10 years to 5 years.

## ITEM 1A. RISK FACTORS

Set forth below are the risks that we believe are material to our investors. This section contains forward-looking statements. You should refer to the explanation of the qualifications and limitations on forward-looking statements beginning on page 4.

### Risks Related to Real Estate

Unfavorable market and economic conditions in the United States and globally and in the specific markets or submarkets where our properties are located could adversely affect occupancy levels, rental rates, rent collections, operating expenses, and the overall market value of our assets, impair our ability to sell, recapitalize or refinance our assets and have an adverse effect on our results of operations, financial condition and our ability to make distributions to our stockholders.

Unfavorable market conditions in the areas in which we operate and unfavorable economic conditions in the United States and globally may significantly affect our occupancy levels, rental rates, rent collections, operating expenses, the market value of our assets and our ability to strategically acquire, dispose, recapitalize or refinance our properties on economically favorable terms or at all. Our ability to lease our properties at favorable rates may be adversely affected by increases in supply of office space in our markets and is dependent upon overall economic conditions, which are adversely affected by, among other things, job losses and unemployment levels, recession, stock market volatility and uncertainty about the future. Some of our major expenses, including mortgage payments and real estate taxes, generally do not decline when related rents decline. We expect that any declines in our occupancy levels, rental revenues and/or the values of our buildings would cause us to have less cash available to pay our indebtedness, fund necessary capital expenditures and to make distributions to our stockholders, which could negatively affect our financial condition and the market value of our securities. Our business may be affected by the volatility and illiquidity in the financial and credit markets, a general global economic recession and other market or economic challenges experienced by the real estate industry or the U.S. economy as a whole. Our business may also be adversely affected by local economic conditions, as all of our revenues are derived from properties located in New York City, Washington, D.C. and San Francisco. Factors that may affect our occupancy levels, our rental revenues, our net operating income, or NOI, our funds from operations and/or the value of our properties include the following, among others:

- downturns in global, national, regional and local economic conditions;
- declines in the financial condition of our tenants, many of which are financial, legal and other professional firms, which may result in tenant defaults under leases due to bankruptcy, lack of liquidity, operational failures or other reasons;

the inability or unwillingness of our tenants to pay rent increases;  
significant job losses in the financial and professional services industries, which may decrease demand for our office space, causing market rental rates and property values to be impacted negatively;  
an oversupply of, or a reduced demand for, Class A office space;  
changes in market rental rates in our markets;  
changes in space utilization by our tenants due to technology, economic conditions and business culture; and  
economic conditions that could cause an increase in our operating expenses, such as increases in property taxes (particularly as a result of increased local, state and national government budget deficits and debt and potentially reduced federal aid to state and local governments), utilities, insurance, compensation of on-site associates and routine maintenance.

All of our properties are located in New York City, Washington, D.C. and San Francisco, and adverse economic or regulatory developments in these areas could negatively affect our results of operations, financial condition and ability to make distributions to our stockholders.

All of our properties are located in New York City, in particular midtown Manhattan, as well as Washington, D.C. and San Francisco. As a result, our business is dependent on the condition of the economy in those cities, which may expose us to greater economic risks than if we owned a more geographically diverse portfolio. We are susceptible to adverse developments in the New York City, Washington, D.C. and San Francisco economic and regulatory environments (such as business layoffs or downsizing, industry slowdowns, relocations of businesses, increases in real estate and other taxes, costs of complying with governmental regulations or increased regulation). Such adverse developments could materially reduce the value of our real estate portfolio and our rental revenues, and thus adversely affect our ability to service current debt and to pay dividends to stockholders.

We are subject to risks inherent in ownership of real estate.

Real estate cash flows and values are affected by a number of factors, including competition from other available properties and our ability to provide adequate property maintenance and insurance and to control operating costs. Real estate cash flows and values are also affected by such factors as government regulations (including zoning, usage and tax laws), interest rate levels, the availability of financing, property tax rates, utility expenses, potential liability under environmental and other laws and changes in environmental and other laws.

A significant portion of our revenue is generated from three properties.

As of December 31, 2016, approximately 59% of our total consolidated revenue was generated from three of our properties – 1633 Broadway, 1301 Avenue of the Americas and One Market Plaza. Our results of operations and cash available for distribution to our stockholders would be adversely affected if any of these properties were materially damaged or destroyed. Additionally, our results of operations and cash available for distribution to our stockholders would be adversely affected if a significant number of our tenants at these properties experienced a downturn in their business, which may weaken their financial condition and result in their failure to make timely rental payments, defaulting under their leases or filing for bankruptcy.

We may be unable to renew leases, lease currently vacant space or vacating space on favorable terms or at all as leases expire, which could adversely affect our financial condition, results of operations and cash flow.

As of December 31, 2016, the vacancy rate of our portfolio was 6.7%. In addition, 5.3% of the square footage of the properties in our portfolio will expire by the end of 2017. We cannot guarantee you that the expiring leases will be renewed or that our properties will be re-leased at rental rates equal to or above current rental rates. If the rental rates of our properties decrease, our existing tenants do not renew their leases or we do not re-lease a significant portion of our available and soon-to-be-available space, our financial condition, results of operations, cash flow, market value of common stock and our ability to satisfy our principal and interest obligations and to make distributions to our stockholders would be adversely affected.

We are exposed to risks associated with property redevelopment and repositioning that could adversely affect us, including our financial condition and results of operations.

To the extent that we continue to engage in redevelopment and repositioning activities with respect to our properties, we will be subject to certain risks, which could adversely affect us, including our financial condition and results of operations. These risks include, without limitation, (i) the availability and pricing of financing on favorable terms or at all; (ii) the availability and timely receipt of zoning and other regulatory approvals; (iii) the potential for the fluctuation of occupancy rates and rents at redeveloped properties, which may result in our investment not being profitable; (iv) start up, repositioning and redevelopment costs may be higher than anticipated; and (v) cost overruns and untimely completion of construction (including risks beyond our control, such as weather or labor conditions, or material shortages). These risks could result in substantial unanticipated delays or expenses and could prevent the initiation or the completion of redevelopment activities, any of which could have an adverse effect on our financial condition, results of operations, cash flow, the market value of our common stock and ability to satisfy our principal and interest obligations and to make distributions to our stockholders.

We may be required to make rent or other concessions and/or significant capital expenditures to improve our properties in order to retain and attract tenants, which could adversely affect us, including our financial condition, results of operations and cash flow.

In the event that there are adverse economic conditions in the real estate market and demand for office space decreases, with respect to our current vacant space and upon expiration of leases at our properties, we may be required to increase tenant improvement allowances or concessions to tenants, accommodate increased requests for renovations, build-to-suit remodeling and other improvements or provide additional services to our tenants, all of which could negatively affect our cash flow. In addition, a few of our existing properties are pre-war office properties, which may require frequent and costly maintenance in order to retain existing tenants or attract new tenants in sufficient numbers. If the necessary capital is unavailable, we may be unable to make these significant capital expenditures. This could result in non-renewals by tenants upon expiration of their leases and our vacant space remaining untenanted, which could adversely affect our financial condition, results of operations, cash flow and market value of our common stock.

We depend on significant tenants in our office portfolio, which could cause an adverse effect on us, including our results of operations and cash flow, if any of our significant tenants were adversely affected by a material business downturn or were to become bankrupt or insolvent.

Our rental revenue depends on entering into leases with and collecting rents from tenants. While no single tenant accounts for more than 10% of our rental revenue, our six largest tenants in the aggregate account for approximately 28% of our share of rental revenue. General and regional economic conditions may adversely affect our major tenants and potential tenants in our markets. Our major tenants may experience a material business downturn, which could potentially result in a failure to make timely rental payments and/or a default under their leases. In many cases, through tenant improvement allowances and other concessions, we have made substantial up front investments in the applicable leases that we may not be able to recover. In the event of a tenant default, we may experience delays in enforcing our rights and may also incur substantial costs to protect our investments.

The bankruptcy or insolvency of a major tenant or lease guarantor may adversely affect the income produced by our properties and may delay our efforts to collect past due balances under the relevant leases and could ultimately preclude collection of these sums altogether. If a lease is rejected by a tenant in bankruptcy, we would have only a general unsecured claim for damages that is limited in amount and which may only be paid to the extent that funds are available and in the same percentage as is paid to all other holders of unsecured claims.

If any of our significant tenants were to become bankrupt or insolvent, suffer a downturn in their business, default under their leases, fail to renew their leases or renew on terms less favorable to us than their current terms, our results of operations and cash flow could be adversely affected.

Real estate investments are relatively illiquid and may limit our flexibility.

Equity real estate investments are relatively illiquid, which may tend to limit our ability to react promptly to changes in economic or other market conditions. Our ability to dispose of assets in the future will depend on prevailing economic and market conditions. Our inability to sell our properties on favorable terms or at all could have an adverse effect on our sources of working capital and our ability to satisfy our debt obligations. In addition, real estate can at times be difficult to sell quickly at prices we find acceptable. The Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended the (“Code”), also imposes restrictions on REITs, which are not applicable to other types of real estate companies, on the disposal of properties. Furthermore, we will be subject to U.S. federal income tax at the highest regular corporate rate, which is currently 35%, on certain built-in gains recognized in connection with a taxable disposition of a number of our properties acquired in the Formation Transactions for a period of up to 5 years following the completion of the Formation Transactions, which may make an otherwise attractive disposition opportunity less attractive or even impractical. These potential difficulties in selling real estate in our markets may limit our ability to change or reduce the office buildings in our portfolio promptly in response to changes in economic or other conditions.

Competition could limit our ability to acquire attractive investment opportunities and increase the costs of those opportunities, which may adversely affect us, including our profitability and impede our growth.

We compete with numerous commercial developers, real estate companies and other owners of real estate for office buildings for acquisition and pursuing buyers for dispositions. We expect that other real estate investors, including insurance companies, private equity funds, sovereign wealth funds, pension funds, other REITs and other well-capitalized investors will compete with us to acquire existing properties and to develop new properties. Our markets are each generally characterized by high barriers-to-entry to construction and limited land on which to build new office space, which contributes to the competition we face to acquire existing properties and to develop new properties in these markets. This competition could increase prices for properties of the type we may pursue and adversely affect our profitability and impede our growth.

We are subject to losses that are either uninsurable, not economically insurable or that are in excess of our insurance coverage.

Our San Francisco properties are located in the general vicinity of active earthquake faults. Our New York City and Washington, D.C. properties are located in areas that could be subject to windstorm losses. Insurance coverage for earthquakes and windstorms can be costly because of limited industry capacity. As a result, we may experience shortages in desired coverage levels if market conditions are such that insurance is not available or the cost of insurance makes it, in our belief, economically impractical to maintain such coverage. In addition, our New York City, Washington, D.C. and other properties may be subject to a heightened risk of terrorist attacks. We carry commercial general liability insurance, property insurance and both domestic and foreign terrorism insurance with respect to our properties with limits and on terms we consider commercially reasonable. We cannot assure you, however, that our insurance coverage will be sufficient or that any uninsured loss or liability will not have an adverse effect on our business and our financial condition and results of operations in the event of a catastrophic loss event. See “Business – Insurance.”

We carry both domestic and foreign terrorism insurance as an inclusion in our property policies for which our carriers may rely, in part for foreign acts of terrorism, on support from the federal government’s Terrorism Risk Insurance Program Reauthorization Act of 2015 (“TRIPRA”). TRIPRA expires on December 31, 2020 and we can provide no assurance that it will be extended further or the impact of modifications or nonrenewal will have on our terrorism insurance coverage and rates.

We are subject to risks from natural disasters such as earthquakes and severe weather.

Natural disasters and severe weather such as earthquakes, tornadoes, hurricanes or floods may result in significant damage to our properties. The extent of our casualty losses and loss in operating income in connection with such events is a function of the severity of the event and the total amount of exposure in the affected area. When we have geographic concentration of exposures, a single catastrophe (such as an earthquake, especially in the San Francisco Bay Area) or destructive weather event (such as a hurricane, especially in New York City or Washington, D.C. area) affecting a region may have a significant negative effect on our financial condition and results of operations. As a result, our operating and financial results may vary significantly from one period to the next. Our financial results may be adversely affected by our exposure to losses arising from natural disasters or severe weather. We also are exposed to risks associated with inclement winter weather, particularly in the Northeast states in which many of our properties are located, including increased need for maintenance and repair of our buildings.

Climate change may adversely affect our business.

To the extent that climate change does occur, we may experience extreme weather and changes in precipitation and temperature, all of which may result in physical damage or a decrease in demand for our properties located in the areas affected by these conditions. Should the impact of climate change be material in nature or occur for lengthy periods of time, our financial condition or results of operations would be adversely affected. In addition, changes in federal and state legislation and regulation on climate change could result in increased capital expenditures to improve the energy efficiency of our existing properties in order to comply with such regulations.

Actual or threatened terrorist attacks may adversely affect our ability to generate revenues and the value of our properties.

We have significant investments in large metropolitan markets that have been or may be in the future the targets of actual or threatened terrorism attacks, including New York City, Washington, D.C. and San Francisco. As a result, some tenants in these markets may choose to relocate their businesses to other markets or to lower-profile office buildings within these markets that may be perceived to be less likely targets of future terrorist activity. This could result in an overall decrease in the demand for office space in these markets generally or in our properties in particular, which could increase vacancies in our properties or necessitate that we lease our properties on less favorable terms or both. In addition, future terrorist attacks in these markets could directly or indirectly damage our properties, both physically and financially, or cause losses that materially exceed our insurance coverage. As a result of the foregoing, our ability to generate revenues and the value of our properties could decline materially. See also “We are subject to losses that are either uninsurable, not economically insurable or that are in excess of our insurance coverage.”

We face risks associated with our tenants being designated “Prohibited Persons” by the Office of Foreign Assets Control and similar requirements.

Pursuant to Executive Order 13224 and other laws, the Office of Foreign Assets Control of the United States Department of the Treasury (“OFAC”) maintains a list of persons designated as terrorists or who are otherwise blocked or banned (“Prohibited Persons”) from conducting business or engaging in transactions in the United States and thereby restricts our doing business with such persons. We are required to comply with OFAC and related requirements and may be required to terminate or otherwise amend our leases, loans and other agreements. If a tenant or other party with whom we conduct business is placed on the OFAC list or is otherwise a party with which we are prohibited from doing business, we may be required to terminate the lease or other agreement. Any such termination could result in a loss of revenue or otherwise negatively affect our financial results and cash flows.

We may become subject to liability relating to environmental and health and safety matters, which could have an adverse effect on us, including our financial condition and results of operations.

Under various federal, state and/or local laws, ordinances and regulations, as a current or former owner or operator of real property, we may be liable for costs and damages resulting from the presence or release of hazardous substances, waste, or petroleum products at, on, in, under or from such property, including costs for investigation or remediation, natural resource damages, or third-party liability for personal injury or property damage. These laws often impose liability without regard to whether the owner or operator knew of, or was responsible for, the presence or release of such materials, and the liability may be joint and several. Some of our properties have been or may be impacted by contamination arising from current or prior uses of the property or from adjacent properties used for commercial, industrial or other purposes. Such contamination may arise from spills of petroleum or hazardous substances or releases from tanks used to store such materials. We also may be liable for the costs of remediating contamination at off-site disposal or treatment facilities when we arrange for disposal or treatment of hazardous substances at such facilities, without regard to whether we comply with environmental laws in doing so. The presence of contamination or the failure to remediate contamination on our properties may adversely affect our ability to attract and/or retain tenants and our ability to develop or sell or borrow against those properties. In addition to potential liability for cleanup costs, private plaintiffs may bring claims for personal injury, property damage or for similar reasons. Environmental laws also may create liens on contaminated sites in favor of the government for damages and costs it incurs to address such contamination. Moreover, if contamination is discovered on our properties, environmental laws may impose restrictions on the manner in which that property may be used or how businesses may be operated on that property. See “Business – Environmental and Related Matters.”

In addition, our properties are subject to various federal, state and local environmental and health and safety laws and regulations. Noncompliance with these environmental and health and safety laws and regulations could subject us or our tenants to liability. These liabilities could affect a tenant’s ability to make rental payments to us. Moreover, changes in laws could increase the potential costs of compliance with such laws and regulations or increase liability for noncompliance. This may result in significant unanticipated expenditures or may otherwise adversely affect our operations, or those of our tenants, which could in turn have an adverse effect on us.

As the owner or operator of real property, we may also incur liability based on various building conditions. For example, buildings and other structures on properties that we currently own or operate or those we acquire or operate in the future contain, may contain, or may have contained Asbestos-Containing Material (“ACM”). Environmental and health and safety laws require that ACM be properly managed and maintained and may impose fines or penalties on owners, operators or employers for non-compliance with those requirements. These requirements include special precautions, such as removal, abatement or air monitoring, if ACM would be disturbed during maintenance, renovation or demolition of a building, potentially resulting in substantial costs. In addition, we may be subject to liability for personal injury or property damage sustained as a result of exposure to ACM or releases of ACM into the environment.

In addition, our properties may contain or develop harmful mold or suffer from other indoor air quality issues. Indoor air quality issues also can stem from inadequate ventilation, chemical contamination from indoor or outdoor sources, and other biological contaminants such as pollen, viruses and bacteria. Indoor exposure to airborne toxins or irritants can be alleged to cause a variety of adverse health effects and symptoms, including allergic or other reactions. As a result, the presence of significant mold or other airborne contaminants at any of our properties could require us to undertake a costly remediation program to contain or remove the mold or other airborne contaminants or to increase ventilation. In addition, the presence of significant mold or other airborne contaminants could expose us to liability from our tenants or others if property damage or personal injury occurs.

We cannot assure you that costs or liabilities incurred as a result of environmental issues will not affect our ability to make distributions to our stockholders or that such costs, liabilities, or other remedial measures will not have an adverse effect on our financial condition and results of operations.

We may incur significant costs complying with the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, (the “ADA”), and similar laws, which could adversely affect us, including our future results of operations and cash flow.

Under the ADA, all public accommodations must meet federal requirements related to access and use by disabled persons. We have not conducted a recent audit or investigation of all of our properties to determine our compliance with the ADA. If one or more of our properties were not in compliance with the ADA, then we could be required to incur additional costs to bring the property into compliance. Additional federal, state and local laws also may require modifications to our properties, or restrict our ability to renovate our properties. We cannot predict the ultimate amount of the cost of compliance with the ADA or similar laws. Substantial costs incurred to comply with the ADA and any other legislation could adversely affect us, including our future results of operations and cash flow.

We may be unable to identify and successfully complete acquisitions and, even if acquisitions are identified and completed, we may fail to successfully operate acquired properties, which could adversely affect us and impede our growth.

Our ability to identify and acquire properties on favorable terms and successfully operate or redevelop them may be exposed to significant risks. Agreements for the acquisition of properties are subject to customary conditions to closing, including completion of due diligence investigations and other conditions that are not within our control, which may not be satisfied. In this event, we may be unable to complete an acquisition after incurring certain acquisition-related costs. In addition, if mortgage debt is unavailable at reasonable rates, we may be unable to finance the acquisition on favorable terms in the time period we desire, or at all. We may spend more than budgeted to make necessary improvements or renovations to acquired properties and may not be able to obtain adequate insurance coverage for new properties. Further, acquired properties may be located in new markets where we may face risks associated with a lack of market knowledge or understanding of the local economy, lack of business relationships in the area and unfamiliarity with local governmental and permitting procedures. We may also be unable to integrate new acquisitions into our existing operations quickly and efficiently, and as a result, our results of operations and financial condition could be adversely affected. Further, we may incur significant costs and divert management attention in connection with evaluating and negotiating potential acquisitions, including ones that we are subsequently unable to complete. Any delay or failure on our part to identify, negotiate, finance and consummate such acquisitions in a timely manner and on favorable terms, or operate acquired properties to meet our financial expectations, could impede our growth and have an adverse effect on us, including our financial condition, results of operations, cash flow and the market value of our securities.

Should we decide at some point in the future to expand into new markets, we may not be successful, which could adversely affect our financial condition, results of operations, cash flow and market value of our securities.

If opportunities arise, we may explore acquisitions of properties in new markets. Each of the risks applicable to our ability to acquire and integrate successfully and operate properties in our current markets is also applicable in new markets. In addition, we will not possess the same level of familiarity with the dynamics and market conditions of the new markets we may enter, which could adversely affect the results of our expansion into those markets, and we may be unable to build a significant market share or achieve our desired return on our investments in new markets. If we are unsuccessful in expanding into new markets, it could adversely affect our financial condition, results of operations, cash flow, the market value of our securities and ability to satisfy our principal and interest obligations and to make distributions to our stockholders.

We are subject to risks involved in real estate activity through joint ventures and private equity real estate funds.

We have in the past, are currently and may in the future acquire and own properties in joint ventures and private equity real estate funds with other persons or entities when we believe circumstances warrant the use of such structures. Joint venture and fund investments involve risks, including: the possibility that our partners might refuse to make capital contributions when due; that we may be responsible to our partners for indemnifiable losses; that our partners might at any time have business or economic goals that are inconsistent with ours; and that our partners may be in a position to take action or withhold consent contrary to our recommendations, instructions or requests. We and our respective joint venture partners may each have the right to trigger a buy-sell or forced sale arrangement, which could cause us to sell our interest, or acquire our partner's interest, or to sell the underlying asset, at a time when we otherwise would not have initiated such a transaction, without our consent or on unfavorable terms. In some instances, joint venture and fund partners may have competing interests in our markets that could create conflicts of interest. These conflicts may include compliance with the REIT requirements, and our REIT status could be jeopardized if any of our joint ventures or funds does not operate in compliance with the REIT requirements. Further, our joint venture and fund partners may fail to meet their obligations to the joint venture or fund as a result of financial distress or otherwise, and we may be forced to make contributions to maintain the value of the property. We will review the qualifications and previous experience of any co-venturers or partners, although we do not expect to obtain financial information from, or to undertake independent investigations with respect to, prospective co-venturers or partners. To the extent our partners do not meet their obligations to us or our joint ventures or funds or they take action inconsistent with the interests of the joint venture or fund, we may be adversely affected.

Our joint venture partners in 712 Fifth Avenue and One Market Plaza have forced sale rights as a result of which we may be forced to sell these assets to third parties at times or prices that may not be favorable to us.

Our partners in the joint ventures that own 712 Fifth Avenue and One Market Plaza have forced sale rights pursuant to which, after a specified period, each may require us either to purchase the property or attempt to sell the property to a third party. With respect to 712 Fifth Avenue, any time on or after November 24, 2020, our joint venture partner may exercise a forced sale right by delivering a written notice to us designating the sales price and other material terms and conditions upon which our joint venture partner desires to cause a sale of the property. Upon receipt of such sales notice, we will have the obligation either to attempt to sell the property to a third party for not less than 95.0% of the designated sales price or to elect to purchase the interest of our joint venture partner for cash at a price equal to the amount our joint venture partner would have received if the property had been sold for the designated sales price (and the joint venture paid any applicable financing breakage costs, transfer taxes, brokerage fees and marketing costs, prepaid all liquidated liabilities of the joint venture and distributed the balance). With respect to One Market Plaza, at any time on or after March 31, 2021, our joint venture partner may exercise a forced sale right. Upon exercise of this right, we and our joint venture partner have 60 days to n