

HCP, INC.
Form 424B5
March 22, 2012

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The information in this preliminary prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus is not complete and may be changed. This preliminary prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus are not an offer to sell these securities and are not soliciting an offer to buy these securities in any state or other jurisdiction where the offer or sale is not permitted.

**Subject to Completion
Preliminary Prospectus Supplement dated March 21, 2012**

Filed Pursuant to Rule 424(b)(5)
Registration Statement No. 333-161721

**PROSPECTUS SUPPLEMENT
To Prospectus dated September 4, 2009**

9,000,000 Shares

HCP, Inc.

Common Stock

We are offering 9,000,000 shares of our common stock to the public. Our common stock is traded on the New York Stock Exchange under the symbol "HCP." On March 21, 2012, the last reported sale price for our common stock on the New York Stock Exchange was \$40.44 per share.

Investing in our common stock involves risks. See "Risk Factors" on page S-9 of this prospectus supplement and page 4 of the accompanying prospectus and "Risk Factors" in our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2011.

Neither the Securities and Exchange Commission nor any state securities commission has approved or disapproved of these securities or determined that this prospectus supplement or the accompanying prospectus is accurate or complete. Any representation to the contrary is a criminal offense.

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The underwriter has agreed to purchase the common stock from us at a price of \$ _____ per share which will result in approximately \$ _____ million of gross proceeds to us. The underwriter may offer the common stock in transactions on the New York Stock Exchange, in the over-the-counter market or through negotiated transactions at market prices or at negotiated prices. See "Underwriting."

To the extent the underwriter sells more than 9,000,000 shares of common stock, the underwriter has the option to purchase up to an additional 1,350,000 shares from us at a price of \$ _____ per share.

The underwriter expects to deliver the shares against payment in New York, New York on March _____, 2012.

Citigroup

The date of this prospectus supplement is March _____, 2012.

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You should rely only on the information contained or incorporated by reference in this prospectus supplement or the accompanying prospectus and, if applicable, any free writing prospectus we may provide you in connection with this offering. We have not, and the underwriter has not, authorized anyone to provide you with information that is different. We are not, and the underwriter is not, making an offer to sell these securities in any jurisdiction where the offer or sale of these securities is not permitted. This document may only be used where it is legal to sell these securities. You should assume that the information contained or incorporated by reference in this prospectus supplement, the accompanying prospectus and any free writing prospectus we may provide you in connection with this offering is accurate only as of their respective dates and that any information we have incorporated by reference is accurate only as of the date of the document incorporated by reference.

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ABOUT THIS PROSPECTUS SUPPLEMENT

This document is in two parts. The first is this prospectus supplement, which describes the specific terms of this offering. The second part, the accompanying prospectus, gives more general information, some of which may not apply to this offering. This prospectus supplement also adds to, updates and changes information contained in the accompanying prospectus. If the description of the offering varies between this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus, you should rely on the information in this prospectus supplement. The accompanying prospectus is part of a registration statement that we filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission ("SEC") using a shelf registration statement. Under the shelf registration process, from time to time, we may offer and sell debt securities, warrants or other rights, stock purchase contracts, units, common stock, preferred stock or depositary shares, or any combination thereof, in one or more offerings.

It is important that you read and consider all of the information contained in this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus in making your investment decision. You should also read and consider the information in the documents to which we have referred you in "Incorporation by Reference" on page S-4 of this prospectus supplement and "Where You Can Find More Information" on page 2 of the accompanying prospectus.

In this prospectus supplement, unless otherwise indicated herein or the context otherwise indicates the terms "HCP," "we," "us," "our" and the "Company" refer to HCP, Inc., together with its consolidated subsidiaries. Currency amounts in this prospectus supplement are stated in U.S. dollars.

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CAUTIONARY LANGUAGE REGARDING FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS

Statements in this prospectus supplement and the information incorporated by reference in this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus that are not historical factual statements are "forward-looking statements." We intend to have our forward-looking statements covered by the safe harbor provisions of the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995 and include this statement for purposes of complying with those provisions. Forward-looking statements include, among other things, statements regarding our and our officers' intent, belief or expectations as identified by the use of words such as "may," "will," "project," "expect," "believe," "intend," "anticipate," "seek," "forecast," "plan," "estimate," "could," "would," "should" and other comparable and derivative terms or the negatives thereof. In addition, we, through our officers, from time to time, make forward-looking oral and written public statements concerning our expected future operations, strategies, securities offerings, growth and investment opportunities, dispositions, capital structure changes, budgets and other developments. Readers are cautioned that, while forward-looking statements reflect our good faith belief and reasonable assumptions based upon current information, we can give no assurance that our expectations or forecasts will be attained. Therefore, readers should be mindful that forward-looking statements are not guarantees of future performance and that they are subject to known and unknown risks and uncertainties that are difficult to predict. As more fully set forth herein under "Risk Factors" in this prospectus supplement and under "Part I, Item 1A. Risk Factors" in our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2011, factors that may cause our actual results to differ materially from the expectations contained in the forward-looking statements include:

- (a) Changes in national and local economic conditions, including a prolonged period of weak economic growth;
- (b) Continued volatility in the capital markets, including changes in interest rates and the availability and cost of capital;
- (c) Our ability to manage our indebtedness level and changes in the terms of such indebtedness;
- (d) Changes in federal, state or local laws and regulations, including those affecting the healthcare industry that affect our costs of compliance or increase the costs, or otherwise affect the operations of our operators, tenants and borrowers;
- (e) The potential impact of future litigation matters, including the possibility of larger than expected litigation costs, adverse results and related developments;
- (f) Competition for tenants and borrowers, including with respect to new leases and mortgages and the renewal or rollover of existing leases;
- (g) Our ability to negotiate the same or better terms with new tenants or operators if existing leases are not renewed or we exercise our right to replace an existing operator or tenant upon default;
- (h) Availability of suitable properties to acquire at favorable prices and the competition for the acquisition and financing of those properties;
- (i) The financial, legal, regulatory and reputational difficulties of significant operators of our properties;
- (j) The risk that we may not be able to achieve the benefits of investments within expected time-frames or at all, or within expected cost projections;
- (k) The ability to obtain financing necessary to consummate acquisitions on favorable terms;
- (l)

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Changes in the reimbursement available to our operators, tenants and borrowers by governmental or private payors
(including the July 2011 Centers for Medicare & Medicaid)

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Services (CMS) final rule reducing Medicare skilled nursing facility (SNF) Prospective Payment System (PPS) payments in fiscal year 2012 by 11.1% compared to fiscal year 2011) and other potential changes in Medicare and Medicaid payment levels, which, among other effects, could negatively impact the value of our approximately 10% equity interest in the operations of HCR ManorCare, Inc.;

(m)

The risks associated with our investments in joint ventures and unconsolidated entities, including our lack of sole decision-making authority and our reliance on our joint venture partners' financial condition and continued cooperation;

(n)

The ability of our operators, tenants and borrowers to conduct their respective businesses in a manner sufficient to maintain or increase their revenues and to generate sufficient income to make rent and loan payments to us and our ability to recover investments made, if applicable, in their operations; and

(o)

The financial weakness of some operators and tenants, including potential bankruptcies and downturns in their businesses, which results in uncertainties regarding our ability to continue to realize the full benefit of such operators' and/or tenants' leases.

Except as required by law, we undertake no, and hereby disclaim any, obligation to update any forward-looking statements, whether as a result of new information, changed circumstances or otherwise.

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INCORPORATION BY REFERENCE

The SEC allows us to "incorporate by reference" information into this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus. This means that we can disclose important information to you by referring you to another document that HCP has filed separately with the SEC that contains that information. The information incorporated by reference is considered to be part of this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus. Information that HCP files with the SEC after the date of this prospectus supplement and that is incorporated by reference in this prospectus supplement will automatically modify and supersede the information included or incorporated by reference in this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus to the extent that the subsequently filed information modifies or supersedes the existing information. We incorporate by reference (other than any portions of any such documents that are not deemed "filed" under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (the "Exchange Act") in accordance with the Exchange Act and applicable SEC rules):

our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2011;

our Current Report on Form 8-K/A filed on January 18, 2012 and our Current Reports on Form 8-K filed on January 23, 2012, February 1, 2012, March 7, 2012 and March 21, 2012;

the description of our common stock contained in our Registration Statement on Form 10 dated May 7, 1985 (File No. 1-08895), including the amendments dated May 20, 1985 and May 23, 1985, and any other amendment or report filed for the purpose of updating such description, including the description of amendments to our charter contained in our Quarterly Reports on Form 10-Q for the quarters ended June 30, 2001, June 30, 2004 and September 30, 2007; and

any future filings we make with the SEC under Sections 13(a), 13(c), 14 or 15(d) of the Exchange Act until we sell all of the securities offered by this prospectus supplement.

You may request a copy of any of these filings at no cost to you by contacting us by mail, telephone or e-mail using the information set forth below:

Legal Department
HCP, Inc.
3760 Kilroy Airport Way, Suite 300
Long Beach, California 90806
(562) 733-5100
legaldept@hpci.com

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SUMMARY

The information below is a summary of the more detailed information included elsewhere or incorporated by reference in this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus. You should read carefully the following summary together with the more detailed information contained in this prospectus supplement, the accompanying prospectus, and the information incorporated by reference into those documents, including the risk factors described on page S-9 of this prospectus supplement and on page 4 of the accompanying prospectus and the "Risk Factors" section in our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2011. This summary is not complete and does not contain all of the information you should consider when making your investment decision.

Unless otherwise expressly stated or the context otherwise requires, information in this prospectus supplement assumes that the option granted to the underwriter to purchase up to 1,350,000 additional shares from us has not been exercised.

Our Company

We invest primarily in real estate serving the healthcare industry in the United States. We are a Maryland corporation and were organized to qualify as a self-administered real estate investment trust ("REIT") in 1985. We are headquartered in Long Beach, California, with offices in Nashville, Tennessee and San Francisco, California. We acquire, develop, lease, manage and dispose of healthcare real estate, and provide financing to healthcare providers. Our portfolio is comprised of investments in the following five healthcare segments: (i) senior housing, (ii) post-acute/skilled nursing, (iii) life science, (iv) medical office and (v) hospital. We make investments within our healthcare segments using the following five investment products: (i) properties under lease, (ii) debt investments, (iii) developments and redevelopments, (iv) investment management and (v) RIDEA, which represents investments in senior housing operations utilizing the structure permitted by the Housing and Economic Recovery Act of 2008.

The delivery of healthcare services requires real estate and, as a result, tenants and operators depend on real estate, in part, to maintain and grow their businesses. We believe that the healthcare real estate market provides investment opportunities due to the following:

Compelling demographics driving the demand for healthcare services;

Specialized nature of healthcare real estate investing; and

Ongoing consolidation of a fragmented healthcare real estate sector.

January 2012 Notes Offering

In January 2012, we completed an offering of \$450 million aggregate principal amount of 3.75% senior notes due 2019, which we refer to as the January 2012 Notes Offering. The net proceeds from the January 2012 Notes Offering were approximately \$444 million, which were used to repay borrowings under our revolving line of credit facility, with the remainder used for general corporate purposes.

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The Offering

Common stock offered by HCP	9,000,000 shares
Common stock outstanding after this offering(1)	419,419,936 shares
Use of proceeds	We estimate that the net proceeds of this offering, after giving effect to the underwriting discount and estimated expenses payable by us, will be approximately \$ million. We anticipate that \$295.5 million of the net proceeds from this offering will be used to redeem all of the outstanding shares of our 7.25% Series E Cumulative Redeemable Preferred Stock, par value \$1.00 per share (the "Series E Preferred Stock"), and 7.10% Series F Cumulative Redeemable Preferred Stock, par value \$1.00 per share (the "Series F Preferred Stock"), before accrued and unpaid dividends. The aggregate redemption price of our Series E Preferred Stock is approximately \$100.0 million, plus accrued and unpaid dividends, and the aggregate redemption price of our Series F Preferred Stock is approximately \$195.5 million, plus accrued and unpaid dividends. The remaining net proceeds will be used for general corporate purposes.
Risk factors	You should carefully consider the information set forth under "Risk Factors" beginning on page S-9 of this prospectus supplement and the "Risks Factors" section in our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2011, and the other information included in or incorporated by reference in this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus in connection with this offering before buying our common stock.
NYSE symbol	HCP

(1) Based on 410,419,936 shares of our common stock outstanding as of March 19, 2012. Does not include:

approximately 5.6 million shares issuable upon the exercise of outstanding options;

approximately 6.7 million shares reserved for future awards under equity incentive plans;

approximately 5.9 million shares issuable in exchange for non-managing member units of affiliated entities; and

1.35 million shares that the underwriter has the option to purchase from us.

For additional information regarding our common stock, see "Description of Capital Stock We May Offer Common Stock," "Description of Capital Stock We May Offer Transfer and Ownership Restrictions Relating to our Common Stock" and "Certain Provisions of Maryland Law and HCP's Charter and Bylaws" in the accompanying prospectus.

Table of Contents**SUMMARY HISTORICAL CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL DATA OF HCP**

The following table sets forth our summary consolidated financial data. You should read this information together with our consolidated financial statements, including the related notes, included in our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2011, from which such information has been derived, and which is incorporated by reference herein. The following data is presented on a historical basis.

	Year Ended December 31,		
	2011	2010	2009
	(in thousands, except per share data)		
Revenues:			
Rental and related revenues	\$ 1,015,867	\$ 917,579	\$ 876,339
Tenant recoveries	92,259	89,012	89,457
Resident fees and services	50,619	32,596	
Income from direct financing leases	464,704	49,438	51,495
Interest income	99,864	160,163	124,146
Investment management fee income	2,073	4,666	5,312
Total revenues	1,725,386	1,253,454	1,146,749
Costs and expenses:			
Depreciation and amortization	356,834	311,218	315,947
Interest expense	419,337	288,650	298,869
Operating	220,172	210,202	183,296
General and administrative	96,150	83,048	77,999
Litigation settlement and provision	125,000		101,973
Impairments (recoveries)	15,400	(11,900)	75,389
Total costs and expenses	1,232,893	881,218	1,053,473
Other income, net	12,338	15,818	7,768
Income before income tax expense and equity income from and impairments of investments in unconsolidated joint ventures	504,831	388,054	101,044
Income taxes	(1,249)	(412)	(1,910)
Equity income from unconsolidated joint ventures	46,750	4,770	3,511
Impairments of investments in unconsolidated joint ventures		(71,693)	
Income from continuing operations	550,332	320,719	102,645
Discontinued operations:			
Income before impairments and gain on sales of real estate, net of income taxes	1,055	3,751	6,310
Impairments			(125)
Gain on sales of real estate, net of income taxes	3,107	19,925	37,321
Total discontinued operations	4,162	23,676	43,506
Net income	554,494	344,395	146,151
Noncontrolling interests' share in earnings	(15,603)	(13,686)	(14,461)
Net income attributable to HCP, Inc.	538,891	330,709	131,690
Preferred stock dividends	(21,130)	(21,130)	(21,130)
Participating securities' share in earnings	(2,459)	(2,081)	(1,491)
Net income applicable to common shares	\$ 515,302	\$ 307,498	\$ 109,069

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	Year Ended December 31,		
	2011	2010	2009
	(in thousands, except per share data)		
Basic earnings per common share:			
Continuing operations	\$ 1.28	\$ 0.93	\$ 0.24
Discontinued operations	0.01	0.08	0.16
Net income applicable to common shares	\$ 1.29	\$ 1.01	\$ 0.40
Diluted earnings per common share:			
Continuing operations	\$ 1.28	\$ 0.92	\$ 0.24
Discontinued operations	0.01	0.08	0.16
Net income applicable to common shares	\$ 1.29	\$ 1.00	\$ 0.40
Weighted average shares used to calculate earnings per common share:			
Basic	398,446	305,574	274,216
Diluted	400,218	306,900	274,631

	As of December 31,	
	2011	2010
	(in thousands)	
Consolidated Balance Sheet Data:		
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 33,506	\$ 1,036,701
Total assets	17,408,475	13,331,923
Total liabilities	8,187,853	5,185,876
Total equity	9,220,622	8,146,047

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RISK FACTORS

Before purchasing shares of our common stock, you should consider carefully the information under the heading "Risk Factors" in our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2011, in the accompanying prospectus and the following risk factors, each of which could materially adversely affect our operating results and financial condition. You should also carefully consider the other information included in this prospectus supplement, the accompanying prospectus and other information incorporated by reference herein. Each of the risks described in our Form 10-K, the accompanying prospectus and below could result in a decrease in the value of our common stock and your investment therein. Although we have tried to discuss what we believe are key risk factors, please be aware that other risks may prove to be important in the future. New risks may emerge at any time, and we cannot predict those risks or estimate the extent to which they may affect our financial performance or the value of our common stock. The information contained, and incorporated by reference, in this prospectus supplement and in the accompanying prospectus includes forward-looking statements that involve risks and uncertainties, and we refer you to the "Cautionary Language Regarding Forward-Looking Statements" section in this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus.

The market price and trading volume of our common stock may be volatile.

The market price of our common stock may be highly volatile and be subject to wide fluctuations. In addition, the trading volume in our common stock may fluctuate and cause significant price variations to occur. The stock market has experienced extreme price and volume fluctuations that have affected the market price of many companies in industries similar or related to ours and that have been unrelated to these companies' operating performances. If the market price of our common stock declines significantly, you may be unable to resell your shares at a gain. We cannot assure you that the market price of our common stock will not fluctuate or decline significantly in the future. Some of the factors that could negatively affect our share price or result in fluctuations in the price or trading volume of our common stock include:

actual or anticipated variations in our quarterly operating results or distributions;

changes in market valuations of similar companies;

adverse market reaction to any increased indebtedness we may incur in the future;

issuance of additional equity securities;

actions by institutional stockholders;

speculation in the press or investment community; and

general market and economic conditions.

Future offerings of debt securities, which would rank senior to our common stock upon our liquidation, and future offerings of equity securities, which would dilute our existing stockholders and may be senior to our common stock for the purposes of dividend and liquidating distributions, may adversely affect the market price of our common stock.

In the future, we may raise capital through the issuance of debt or equity securities. Upon liquidation, holders of our debt securities and preferred stock and lenders with respect to other borrowings will be entitled to our available assets prior to the holders of our common stock. Additional equity offerings may dilute the holdings of our existing stockholders or reduce the market price of our common stock, or both. Preferred stock could have a preference on liquidating distributions or a preference on dividend payments that could limit our ability to pay dividends to the holders of our common stock. Sales of substantial amounts of our common stock, or the perception that these sales could occur, could have a material adverse effect on the price of our common stock. Because our decision to issue debt or equity securities in any future offering will depend on market conditions and other factors beyond our control, we cannot predict or estimate the amount, timing or nature of our

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future offerings. Thus holders of our common stock bear the risk of our future offerings reducing the market price of our common stock and diluting the value of their stock holdings in us.

Certain provisions of Maryland law and our bylaws could hinder, delay or prevent a change in control transaction, even if our stockholders believe such transaction to be otherwise in their best interests.

The Maryland Control Share Acquisition Act provides that holders of "control shares" of a corporation acquired in a "control share acquisition" shall have no voting rights with respect to the control shares except to the extent approved by a vote of two-thirds of the votes eligible to be cast on the matter under the statute. "Control shares" means shares of stock that, if aggregated with all other shares of stock previously acquired by the acquiror, would entitle the acquiror to exercise voting power in electing directors within one of the following ranges of the voting power: one-tenth or more but less than one-third, one-third or more but less than a majority, or a majority or more of all voting power. A "control share acquisition" means the acquisition of control shares, subject to certain exceptions.

If voting rights of control shares acquired in a control share acquisition are not approved at a stockholders' meeting, or if the acquiring person does not deliver an acquiring person statement as required by the Maryland Control Share Acquisition Act, then subject to certain conditions and limitations, the issuer may redeem any or all of the control shares for fair value. If voting rights of such control shares are approved at a stockholders' meeting and the acquiror becomes entitled to vote a majority of the shares of stock entitled to vote, all other stockholders may exercise appraisal rights. Our bylaws contain a provision exempting acquisitions of shares of our stock from the Maryland Control Share Acquisition Act. However, our Board of Directors may amend our bylaws in the future to repeal or modify this exemption, in which case any control shares of our company acquired in a control share acquisition will be subject to the Maryland Control Share Acquisition Act.

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USE OF PROCEEDS

We estimate that the net proceeds of this offering, after giving effect to the underwriting discount and estimated expenses payable by us, will be approximately \$ million. We anticipate that \$295.5 million of the net proceeds from this offering will be used to redeem all of the outstanding shares of our Series E Preferred Stock and Series F Preferred Stock, before accrued and unpaid dividends. The aggregate redemption price of our Series E Preferred Stock is approximately \$100.0 million, plus accrued and unpaid dividends, and the aggregate redemption price of our Series F Preferred Stock is approximately \$195.5 million, plus accrued and unpaid dividends. The remaining net proceeds will be used for general corporate purposes.

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The following table sets forth our capitalization as of December 31, 2011 (i) on an actual basis, (ii) on a pro forma basis to give effect to the consummation of the January 2012 Notes Offering as if it had occurred on December 31, 2011, and (iii) on a pro forma as adjusted basis to give effect to the January 2012 Notes Offering, this offering and the use of the proceeds as described under "Use of Proceeds," including the redemption of all outstanding shares of our Series E Preferred Stock and our Series F Preferred Stock as if they occurred on December 31, 2011.

The following table is unaudited and should be read in conjunction with "Summary Historical Consolidated Financial Data of HCP" and "Use of Proceeds" contained elsewhere in this prospectus supplement, and our consolidated annual financial statements and the notes thereto included in the documents incorporated by reference in this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus.

	Actual	Pro Forma	Pro Forma, As Adjusted(1)
	(in thousands, except share and per share data)		
Debt obligations:			
Revolving bank line of credit	\$ 454,000	\$ 79,000	\$ 79,000
3.75% senior unsecured notes due 2019		450,000	450,000
Other senior unsecured notes	5,416,063	5,416,063	5,416,063
Mortgage debt	1,764,571	1,764,571	1,764,571
Other debt	87,985	87,985	87,985
Total debt obligations	7,722,619	7,797,619	7,797,619
Stockholders' equity:			
Preferred stock, \$1.00 par value per share: 50,000,000 shares authorized; 11,820,000 actual and pro forma shares and zero pro forma as adjusted shares issued and outstanding	\$ 285,173	\$ 285,173	\$ (2)
Common stock, \$1.00 par value per share: 750,000,000 shares authorized; 408,629,444 actual and pro forma shares and 417,629,444 pro forma as adjusted shares issued and outstanding, respectively	408,629	408,629	
Additional paid-in capital	9,383,536	9,383,536	
Cumulative dividends in excess of earnings	(1,024,274)	(1,024,274)	
Accumulated other comprehensive loss	(19,582)	(19,582)	(19,582)
Total stockholders' equity	9,033,482	9,033,482	
Noncontrolling interests:			
Joint venture partners	16,971	16,971	16,971
Non-managing member unitholders	170,169	170,169	170,169
Total noncontrolling interests	187,140	187,140	187,140
Total equity	9,220,622	9,220,622	
Total capitalization	\$ 16,943,241	\$ 17,018,241	\$

(1) Assumes that the underwriter does not exercise its option to purchase up to 1,350,000 additional shares of our common stock.

(2) The aggregate redemption price of our Series E Preferred Stock is approximately \$100.0 million, plus accrued and unpaid dividends, and the aggregate redemption price of our Series F Preferred Stock is approximately \$195.5 million, plus accrued and unpaid dividends.

Table of Contents**PRICE RANGE OF COMMON STOCK AND DIVIDENDS**

Our common stock is listed on the New York Stock Exchange, or NYSE, under the symbol "HCP." The table below sets forth, for the fiscal quarters indicated, high and low reported sale prices per share of our common stock on the NYSE and the cash dividends per share paid in such periods. The last reported sale price of our common stock on the NYSE on March 21, 2012 was \$40.44 per share.

	Stock Price		Dividends Paid
	High	Low	
2010			
First Quarter	\$ 34.37	\$ 26.70	\$ 0.465
Second Quarter	34.50	28.53	0.465
Third Quarter	38.05	31.08	0.465
Fourth Quarter	37.65	31.87	0.465
2011			
First Quarter	\$ 38.29	\$ 35.81	\$ 0.48
Second Quarter	40.75	35.00	0.48
Third Quarter	38.23	28.76	0.48
Fourth Quarter	41.98	32.66	0.48
2012			
First Quarter (through March 21, 2012)	\$ 42.75	\$ 38.72	\$ 0.50

As of March 19, 2012, there were approximately 11,775 common stockholders of record.

It has been our policy to declare dividends to the holders of shares of our common stock so as to comply with applicable provisions of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended, or the Internal Revenue Code, governing REITs. The cash dividends per share paid on our common stock since January 1, 2010 are set forth in the table above.

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SUPPLEMENTAL MATERIAL UNITED STATES FEDERAL INCOME TAX CONSIDERATIONS

This discussion is a supplement to, and is intended to be read together with, the discussion in the accompanying prospectus under the heading "Material United States Federal Income Tax Considerations." This summary of material federal income tax considerations is for general information only and is not tax advice. This discussion does not purport to deal with all aspects of taxation that may be relevant to particular holders of our common stock in light of their personal investment or tax circumstances. Notwithstanding anything contained in the accompanying prospectus to the contrary, Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom LLP is our counsel with respect to this offering.

EACH PROSPECTIVE HOLDER IS ADVISED TO CONSULT HIS OR HER TAX ADVISOR REGARDING THE SPECIFIC FEDERAL, STATE, LOCAL AND FOREIGN INCOME AND OTHER TAX CONSEQUENCES TO HIM OR HER OF ACQUIRING, HOLDING, EXCHANGING OR OTHERWISE DISPOSING OF OUR COMMON STOCK AND OF THE COMPANY'S ELECTION TO BE TAXED AS A REAL ESTATE INVESTMENT TRUST, AND OF POTENTIAL CHANGES IN APPLICABLE TAX LAWS.

REIT Tax Opinion

Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom LLP has rendered an opinion to us to the effect that, commencing with our taxable year ended December 31, 1985, we have been organized and have operated in conformity with the requirements for qualification and taxation as a REIT, and that our proposed method of operation will enable us to continue to meet the requirements for qualification and taxation as a REIT under the Internal Revenue Code. It must be emphasized that this opinion was based on various assumptions and representations as to factual matters, including representations made by us in factual certificates. You should be aware that opinions of counsel are not binding on the Internal Revenue Service, and no assurance can be given that the opinion will not be subject to challenge. Moreover, our qualification and taxation as a REIT depend upon our ability to meet the various qualification tests imposed under the Internal Revenue Code, including through actual annual operating results, asset composition, distribution levels and diversity of stock ownership, the results of which have not been and will not be reviewed by Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom LLP. Accordingly, no assurance can be given that our actual results of operation for any particular taxable year have satisfied or will satisfy those requirements. See "Material United States Federal Income Tax Considerations Failure to Qualify" on page 60 of the accompanying base prospectus. Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom LLP has no obligation to update its opinion subsequent to its date.

Legislative or Other Actions Affecting REITs and Stockholders

The present federal income tax treatment of REITs may be modified, possibly with retroactive effect, by legislative, judicial or administrative action at any time. The REIT rules, as well as all federal tax laws, are constantly under review by persons involved in the legislative process and by the Internal Revenue Service and the U.S. Treasury Department which may result in statutory changes as well as revisions to regulations and interpretations. No assurance can be given as to whether, or in what form, any proposals affecting REITs or their stockholders will be enacted. Changes to the federal tax laws and interpretations thereof could adversely affect an investment in our common stock.

The Tax Relief, Unemployment Insurance Reauthorization, and Job Creation Act of 2010 extended the 2001 and 2003 tax rates for taxpayers that are taxable as individuals, trusts and estates through 2012, including the maximum 35% tax rate on ordinary income and the maximum 15% tax rate for long-term capital gains and qualified dividend income. As noted in "Material United States Federal Income Tax Considerations Tax Rates" on page 66 of the accompanying base prospectus, dividends paid by REITs generally will not constitute qualified dividend income eligible for the 15% tax rate for

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stockholders that are taxable as individuals, trusts and estates and will generally be taxable at the higher ordinary income tax rates.

The Health Care and Education Reconciliation Act of 2010 requires U.S. stockholders who meet certain requirements and are individuals, estates or certain trusts to pay an additional 3.8% tax on, among other things, dividends on and capital gains from the sale or other disposition of stock for taxable years beginning after December 31, 2012. U.S. stockholders should consult their tax advisors regarding the effect, if any, of this legislation on their ownership and disposition of shares of our common stock.

Recently enacted legislation and administrative guidance will require withholding at a rate of 30% on dividends paid after December 31, 2013 in respect of, and gross proceeds paid after December 31, 2014 from the sale of, shares of our common stock held by or through certain foreign financial institutions (including investment funds), unless such institution enters into an agreement with the Secretary of the Treasury to report, on an annual basis, information with respect to shares in the institution held by certain United States persons and by certain non-U.S. entities that are wholly or partially owned by United States persons and to withhold on certain payments. Accordingly, the entity through which shares of our common stock are held will affect the determination of whether such withholding is required. Similarly, dividends in respect of, and gross proceeds from the sale of, shares of our common stock held by an investor that is a non-financial non-U.S. entity will be subject to withholding at a rate of 30%, unless such entity either (i) certifies to us that such entity does not have any "substantial United States owners" or (ii) provides certain information regarding the entity's "substantial United States owners," which we will in turn provide to the Secretary of the Treasury. We will not pay any additional amounts to stockholders in respect of any amounts withheld. Non-U.S. stockholders are encouraged to consult with their tax advisors regarding the possible implications of the legislation on their investment in shares of our common stock.

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UNDERWRITING

We are offering the shares of common stock described in this prospectus supplement through Citigroup Global Markets Inc., the underwriter. We have entered into an underwriting agreement with the underwriter. Subject to the terms and conditions of the underwriting agreement, we have agreed to sell to the underwriter, and the underwriter has agreed to purchase all of the shares of common stock offered hereby.

The underwriter proposes to offer the shares of common stock from time to time for sale in one or more transactions on the NYSE, in the over-the-counter market, through negotiated transactions or otherwise at market prices prevailing at the time of sale, at prices related to prevailing market prices or at negotiated prices, subject to receipt and acceptance by it and subject to its right to reject any order in whole or in part. In connection with the sale of the shares of common stock offered hereby, the underwriter may be deemed to have received compensation in the form of the underwriting discount. The underwriter may effect such transactions by selling shares of common stock to or through dealers, and such dealers may receive compensation in the form of discounts, concessions or commissions from the underwriter and/or purchasers of shares of common stock for whom they may act as agents or to whom they may sell as principal. The difference between the price at which the underwriter purchases shares and the price at which the underwriter resells such shares, may include a commission equivalent of up to \$0.05 per share, may be deemed underwriting compensation.

If the underwriter sells more than 9,000,000 shares, the underwriter has an option to buy up to 1,350,000 additional shares of common stock from us to cover such sales. The underwriter has 30 days from the date of this prospectus supplement to exercise this option.

We estimate that the total expenses of this offering, including registration, filing and listing fees, printing fees and legal and accounting expenses, but excluding the underwriting discount, will be approximately \$.

A prospectus in electronic format may be made available on the websites maintained by the underwriter, or selling group members, if any, participating in the offering. The underwriter may agree to allocate a number of shares to selling group members for sale to their online brokerage account holders. Internet distributions will be allocated by the underwriter to selling group members that may make Internet distributions on the same basis as other allocations.

In connection with the offering, the underwriter may purchase and sell shares of common stock in the open market. These transactions may include short sales and purchases to cover positions created by short sales. Short sales involve the sale by the underwriter of a greater number of shares than it is required to purchase in the offering. "Covered" short sales are sales made in an amount not greater than the underwriter's option to purchase additional shares from us in the offering. The underwriter may close out any covered short position by either exercising its option to purchase additional shares or purchasing shares in the open market. In determining the source of shares to close out the covered short position, the underwriter will consider, among other things, the price of shares available for purchase in the open market as compared to the price at which it may purchase additional shares pursuant to the option granted to it. "Naked" short sales are any sales in excess of such option. The underwriter must close out any naked short position by purchasing shares in the open market. A naked short position is more likely to be created if the underwriter is concerned that there may be downward pressure on the price of the common stock in the open market after pricing that could adversely affect investors who purchase in the offering.

Purchases to cover a short position, as well as other purchases by the underwriter for its own account, may have the effect of preventing or retarding a decline in the market price of our stock, and may maintain or otherwise affect the market price of the common stock. As a result, the price of the common stock may be higher than the price that otherwise might exist in the open market. If these

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activities are commenced, they may be discontinued at any time. These transactions may be effected on NYSE, in the over-the-counter market or otherwise.

We have agreed that, except for common stock issued in this offering and subject to certain additional exceptions, we will not offer, sell, contract to sell, pledge or otherwise dispose of, directly or indirectly, or file with the SEC a registration statement under the Securities Act of 1933 relating to, any shares of our common stock or securities convertible into or exchangeable or exercisable for any shares of our common stock, or publicly announce the intention to make any such offer, sale, pledge, disposition or filing, without the prior written consent of the underwriter for a period of 45 days after the date of this prospectus supplement. The underwriter, in its sole discretion, may waive this lock-up agreement at any time without notice.

Certain of our officers and directors have agreed, subject to certain exceptions, that, for a period of 45 days from the date of this prospectus supplement they will not, without the prior written consent of the underwriter, dispose of or hedge any shares of our common stock or any securities convertible into or exchangeable or exercisable for our common stock; provided that this agreement does not limit sales by such officers and directors under any 10b5-1 automatic trading plan which such officer or director has in place as of the date hereof. The underwriter in its sole discretion may release any of the securities subject to these lock-up agreements at any time without notice.

We have agreed to indemnify the underwriter against certain liabilities, including liabilities under the Securities Act of 1933.

Our common stock is listed on the NYSE under the symbol "HCP."

Notice to Prospective Investors in the European Economic Area

In relation to each member state of the European Economic Area that has implemented the Prospectus Directive (each, a relevant member state), an offer of any shares which are the subject of the offering contemplated by this prospectus supplement may not be made to the public in that relevant member state, except that an offer to the public in that relevant member state of any shares may be made at any time under the following exemptions under the Prospectus Directive, if they have been implemented in that relevant member state:

to any legal entity which is a qualified investor as defined in the Prospectus Directive;

by the underwriter to fewer than 100 or, if the relevant member state has implemented the relevant provisions of the 2010 PD Amending Directive, 150 natural or legal persons (other than "qualified investors" as defined in the Prospectus Directive), as permitted under the Prospectus Directive; or

in any other circumstances falling within Article 3(2) of the Prospectus Directive,

provided that no such offer of the shares shall result in a requirement for the publication by us or the underwriter of a prospectus pursuant to Article 3 of the Prospectus Directive.

For purposes of this provision, the expression an "offer to the public" in relation to any shares in any relevant member state means the communication in any form and by any means of sufficient information on the terms of the offer and any shares to be offered so as to enable an investor to decide to purchase or subscribe for the shares, as the expression may be varied in that member state by any measure implementing the Prospectus Directive in that member state, the expression "Prospectus Directive" means Directive 2003/71/EC (and amendments thereto, including the 2010 PD Amending Directive to the extent implemented in the relevant member state) and includes any relevant implementing measure in each relevant member state and the expression "2010 PD Amending Directive" means Directive 2010/73/EU.

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We have not authorized and do not authorize the making of any offer of the shares through any financial intermediary on behalf of us, other than offers made by the underwriter with a view to the final placement of the shares as contemplated in this prospectus supplement. Accordingly, no purchaser of the shares, other than the underwriter, is authorized to make any further offer of the shares on behalf of us or the underwriter.

Notice to Prospective Investors in the United Kingdom

The underwriter shall be deemed to have represented, warranted and agreed that:

it has only communicated or caused to be communicated and will only communicate or cause to be communicated an invitation or inducement to engage in investment activity (within the meaning of section 21 of the Financial Services and Markets Act 2000 (the "FSMA")) received by it in connection with the issue or sale of the shares in circumstances in which section 21 of the FSMA does not apply to us; and

it has complied and will comply with all applicable provisions of the FSMA with respect to anything done by it in relation to the shares in, from or otherwise involving the United Kingdom.

This prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus are only being distributed to, and are only directed at, persons in the United Kingdom that are (i) investment professionals falling within Article 19(5) of the Financial Services and Markets Act 2000 (Financial Promotion) Order 2005 (the "Order"); (ii) high net worth entities falling within Article 49(2)(a) to (d) of the Order; or (iii) other persons to whom it may lawfully be communicated (each such person being referred to as a "relevant person"). This prospectus supplement and its contents are confidential and should not be distributed, published or reproduced (in whole or in part) or disclosed by recipients to any persons who are not relevant persons in the United Kingdom. Any person in the United Kingdom that is not a relevant person should not act or rely on this document or any of its contents. The shares and investment activity to which this prospectus supplement relates are only available to and will only be engaged in with relevant persons.

Notice to Prospective Investors in France

Neither this prospectus supplement nor any other offering material relating to the shares described in this prospectus supplement has been submitted to the clearance procedures of the *Autorité des Marchés Financiers* or of the competent authority of another member state of the European Economic Area and notified to the *Autorité des Marchés Financiers*. The shares have not been offered or sold and will not be offered or sold, directly or indirectly, to the public in France. Neither this prospectus supplement nor any other offering material relating to the shares has been or will be:

released, issued, distributed or caused to be released, issued or distributed to the public in France; or

used in connection with any offer for subscription or sale of the shares to the public in France.

Such offers, sales and distributions will be made in France only:

to qualified investors (*investisseurs qualifiés*) and/or to a restricted circle of investors (*cercle restreint d'investisseurs*), in each case investing for their own account, all as defined in, and in accordance with articles L.411-2, D.411-1, D.411-2, D.734-1, D.744-1, D.754-1 and D.764-1 of the French Code *monétaire et financier*;

to investment services providers authorized to engage in portfolio management on behalf of third parties; or

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in a transaction that, in accordance with article L.411-2-II-1^o-or-2^o-or 3^o of the French Code monétaire et financier and article 211-2 of the General Regulations (*Règlement Général of the Autorité des Marchés Financiers*, does not constitute a public offer (*appel public à l'épargne*).

The shares may be resold directly or indirectly, only in compliance with articles L.411-1, L.411-2, L.412-1 and L.621-8 through L.621-8-3 of the French Code *monétaire et financier*.

Notice to Prospective Investors in Switzerland

This prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus, as well as any other material relating to the shares which are the subject of the offering contemplated by this prospectus supplement, do not constitute an issue prospectus pursuant to Articles 652a and/or 1156 of the Swiss Code of Obligations. The shares will not be listed on the SIX Swiss Exchange and, therefore, the documents relating to the shares, including, but not limited to, this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus, do not claim to comply with the disclosure standards of the listing rules of the SIX Swiss Exchange and corresponding prospectus schemes annexed to the listing rules of the SIX Swiss Exchange. The shares of common stock are being offered in Switzerland by way of a private placement, i.e., to a small number of selected investors only, without any public offer and only to investors who do not purchase the shares with the intention to distribute them to the public. The investors will be individually approached by the issuer from time to time. This prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus as well as any other material relating to the shares are personal and confidential and do not constitute an offer to any other person. This prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus may only be used by those investors to whom they have been handed out in connection with the offering described herein and may neither directly nor indirectly be distributed or made available to other persons without express consent of the issuer. It may not be used in connection with any other offer and shall in particular not be copied and/or distributed to the public in (or from) Switzerland.

Notice to Prospective Investors in the Dubai International Financial Centre

This prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus relate to an Exempt Offer in accordance with the Offered Securities Rules of the Dubai Financial Services Authority ("DFSA"). This prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus are intended for distribution only to persons of a type specified in the Offered Securities Rules of the DFSA. They must not be delivered to, or relied on by, any other person. The DFSA has no responsibility for reviewing or verifying any documents in connection with Exempt Offers. The DFSA has not approved this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus nor taken steps to verify the information set forth herein or therein and has no responsibility for this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus. The shares to which this prospectus supplement relates may be illiquid and/or subject to restrictions on their resale. Prospective purchasers of the shares offered should conduct their own due diligence on the shares. If you do not understand the contents of this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus you should consult an authorized financial advisor.

Notice to Prospective Investors in Hong Kong

The shares may not be offered or sold in Hong Kong by means of any document other than (i) in circumstances which do not constitute an offer to the public within the meaning of the Companies Ordinance (Cap. 32, Laws of Hong Kong), or (ii) to "professional investors" within the meaning of the Securities and Futures Ordinance (Cap. 571, Laws of Hong Kong) and any rules made thereunder, or (iii) in other circumstances which do not result in the prospectus supplement and accompanying prospectus being a "prospectus" within the meaning of the Companies Ordinance (Cap. 32, Laws of Hong Kong) and no advertisement, invitation or document relating to the shares may be issued or may be in the possession of any person for the purpose of issue (in each case whether in Hong Kong or elsewhere), which is directed at, or the contents of which are likely to be accessed or read by, the

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public in Hong Kong (except if permitted to do so under the laws of Hong Kong) other than with respect to shares which are or are intended to be disposed of only to persons outside Hong Kong or only to "professional investors" within the meaning of the Securities and Futures Ordinance (Cap. 571, Laws of Hong Kong) and any rules made thereunder.

Notice to Prospective Investors in Japan

The shares offered in this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus have not been registered under the Securities and Exchange Law of Japan. The shares have not been offered or sold and will not be offered or sold, directly or indirectly, in Japan or to or for the account of any resident of Japan, except (i) pursuant to an exemption from the registration requirements of the Securities and Exchange Law and (ii) in compliance with any other applicable requirements of Japanese law.

Notice to Prospective Investors in Singapore

This prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus have not been registered as a prospectus with the Monetary Authority of Singapore. Accordingly, this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus and any other document or material in connection with the offer or sale, or invitation for subscription or purchase, of the shares may not be circulated or distributed, nor may the shares be offered or sold, or be made the subject of an invitation for subscription or purchase, whether directly or indirectly, to persons in Singapore other than (i) to an institutional investor under Section 274 of the Securities and Futures Act, Chapter 289 of Singapore (the "SFA"), (ii) to a relevant person pursuant to Section 275(1), or any person pursuant to Section 275(1A), and in accordance with the conditions specified in Section 275 of the SFA or (iii) otherwise pursuant to, and in accordance with the conditions of, any other applicable provision of the SFA, in each case subject to compliance with conditions set forth in the SFA.

Where the shares are subscribed or purchased under Section 275 of the SFA by a relevant person which is:

a corporation (which is not an accredited investor (as defined in Section 4A of the SFA)) the sole business of which is to hold investments and the entire share capital of which is owned by one or more individuals, each of whom is an accredited investor; or

a trust (where the trustee is not an accredited investor) whose sole purpose is to hold investments and each beneficiary of the trust is an individual who is an accredited investor,

shares, debentures and units of shares and debentures of that corporation or the beneficiaries' rights and interest (howsoever described) in that trust shall not be transferred within six months after that corporation or that trust has acquired the shares pursuant to an offer made under Section 275 of the SFA except:

to an institutional investor (for corporations, under Section 274 of the SFA) or to a relevant person defined in Section 275(2) of the SFA, or to any person pursuant to an offer that is made on terms that such shares, debentures and units of shares and debentures of that corporation or such rights and interest in that trust are acquired at a consideration of not less than S\$200,000 (or its equivalent in a foreign currency) for each transaction, whether such amount is to be paid for in cash or by exchange of securities or other assets, and further for corporations, in accordance with the conditions specified in Section 275 of the SFA;

where no consideration is or will be given for the transfer; or

where the transfer is by operation of law.

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Notice to Prospective Investors in Australia

No prospectus or other disclosure document (as defined in the Corporations Act 2001 (Cth) of Australia ("Corporations Act")) in relation to the common shares has been or will be lodged with the Australian Securities & Investments Commission ("ASIC"). This document has not been lodged with ASIC and is only directed to certain categories of exempt persons. Accordingly, if you receive this document in Australia:

(a) you confirm and warrant that you are either:

(i) a "sophisticated investor" under section 708(8)(a) or (b) of the Corporations Act;

(ii) a "sophisticated investor" under section 708(8)(c) or (d) of the Corporations Act and that you have provided an accountant's certificate to us which complies with the requirements of section 708(8)(c)(i) or (ii) of the Corporations Act and related regulations before the offer has been made;

(iii) a person associated with the company under section 708(12) of the Corporations Act; or

(iv) a "professional investor" within the meaning of section 708(11)(a) or (b) of the Corporations Act, and to the extent that you are unable to confirm or warrant that you are an exempt sophisticated investor, associated person or professional investor under the Corporations Act any offer made to you under this document is void and incapable of acceptance; and

(b) you warrant and agree that you will not offer any of the common shares for resale in Australia within 12 months of that common shares being issued unless any such resale offer is exempt from the requirement to issue a disclosure document under section 708 of the Corporations Act.

Notice to Prospective Investors in Chile

The shares are not registered in the Securities Registry (Registro de Valores) or subject to the control of the Chilean Securities and Exchange Commission (Superintendencia de Valores y Seguros de Chile). This prospectus supplement and other offering materials relating to the offer of the shares do not constitute a public offer of, or an invitation to subscribe for or purchase, the shares in the Republic of Chile, other than to individually identified purchasers pursuant to a private offering within the meaning of Article 4 of the Chilean Securities Market Act (Ley de Mercado de Valores) (an offer that is not "addressed to the public at large or to a certain sector or specific group of the public").

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VALIDITY OF THE COMMON STOCK

Certain legal matters will be passed upon for us by Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom LLP, New York, New York. Certain legal matters relating to Maryland law will be passed upon for us by Ballard Spahr LLP, Baltimore, Maryland. Sidley Austin LLP, San Francisco, California, will act as counsel for the underwriter.

EXPERTS

The consolidated financial statements, and the related financial statement schedules, of HCP, Inc. as of December 31, 2011 and 2010 and for the years then ended incorporated in this prospectus supplement by reference from HCP, Inc.'s Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2011, and the effectiveness of the Company's internal control over financial reporting as of December 31, 2011 have been audited by Deloitte & Touche LLP, an independent registered public accounting firm, as stated in their reports, which are incorporated herein by reference. Such consolidated financial statements and financial statement schedules have been so incorporated in reliance upon the reports of such firm given upon their authority as experts in accounting and auditing.

The consolidated financial statements and schedules of HCP, Inc. for the year ended December 31, 2009 appearing in HCP, Inc.'s Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2011 have been audited by Ernst & Young LLP, independent registered public accounting firm, as set forth in their report thereon, included therein, and incorporated herein by reference. Such consolidated financial statements and schedules are incorporated herein by reference in reliance upon such report given on the authority of such firm as experts in accounting and auditing.

PROSPECTUS

HCP, Inc.

**Common Stock
Preferred Stock
Depositary Shares
Debt Securities
Warrants or Other Rights
Stock Purchase Contracts
Units**

HCP, Inc. from time to time may offer to sell the securities listed above. The preferred stock, debt securities, warrants, rights and stock purchase contracts may be convertible into or exercisable or exchangeable for common or preferred stock or other securities of HCP or debt or equity securities of one or more other entities. Our common stock is quoted on the New York Stock Exchange (the "NYSE") under the symbol "HCP."

HCP may offer and sell these securities directly or to or through one or more underwriters, dealers and/or agents, or directly to purchasers on a continuous or delayed basis.

This prospectus describes some of the general terms that may apply to these securities and the general manner in which they may be offered. The specific terms of any securities to be offered, and the specific manner in which they may be offered, will be described in a supplement to this prospectus.

You should consider the risks discussed in "Risk Factors" beginning on page 4 of this prospectus before you invest in our securities.

Neither the Securities and Exchange Commission nor any state securities commission has approved or disapproved of these securities or passed upon the adequacy or accuracy of this prospectus. Any representation to the contrary is a criminal offense.

The date of this prospectus is September 4, 2009

HCP, Inc.
3760 Kilroy Airport Way, Suite 300
Long Beach, California 90806
(562) 733-5100

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All references in this prospectus to "HCP," "we," "us" or "our" mean HCP, Inc., its majority-owned subsidiaries and other entities controlled by HCP, Inc. except where it is clear from the context that the term means only the issuer, HCP, Inc. Unless otherwise stated, currency amounts in this prospectus are stated in United States dollars.

When acquiring any securities discussed in this prospectus, you should rely only on the information contained or incorporated by reference in this prospectus and the applicable prospectus supplement. We have not authorized anyone else to provide you with different or additional information. If anyone provides you with different or additional information, you should not rely on it. An offer to sell these securities will not be made in any jurisdiction where the offer and sale is not permitted. You should not assume that the information appearing in this prospectus, as well as information we previously filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission and incorporated by reference, is accurate as of any date other than the date mentioned on the front cover of those documents. Our business, financial condition, results of operations and prospects may have changed since that date.

ABOUT THIS PROSPECTUS

This prospectus is part of an automatic shelf registration statement on Form S-3 that we filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission, or the SEC, as a "well-known seasoned issuer" as defined in Rule 405 under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended. As allowed by the SEC rules, this prospectus does not contain all of the information included in the registration statement. For further information, we refer you to the registration statement, including its exhibits. Statements contained in this prospectus about the provisions or contents of any agreement or other document are not necessarily complete. If the SEC's rules and regulations require that an agreement or document be filed as an

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exhibit to the registration statement, please see that agreement or document for a complete description of these matters.

You should read this prospectus and any prospectus supplement together with any additional information you may need to make your investment decision. You should also read and carefully consider the information in the documents we have referred you to in "Where You Can Find More Information" below. Information incorporated by reference after the date of this prospectus is considered a part of this prospectus and may add, update or change information contained in this prospectus. Any information in such subsequent filings that is inconsistent with this prospectus will supersede the information in this prospectus or any earlier prospectus supplement.

WHERE YOU CAN FIND MORE INFORMATION

We file annual, quarterly and current reports, proxy statements and other information with the SEC. You may read and copy any materials we file with the SEC at its public reference room at 100 F Street, N.E., Washington, D.C. 20549. You may also obtain copies of this information by mail from the public reference room of the SEC, 100 F Street, N.E., Washington, D.C. 20549, at prescribed rates. Please call the SEC at 1-800-SEC-0330 for further information on the operation of the public reference facilities. Our SEC filings are also available to the public from commercial document retrieval services and at the web site maintained by the SEC at <http://www.sec.gov>. You may inspect information that we file with The New York Stock Exchange, as well as our SEC filings, at the offices of The New York Stock Exchange at 20 Broad Street, New York, New York 10005.

The SEC allows us to "incorporate by reference" certain information we file with the SEC, which means that we can disclose important information to you by referring to the other information we have filed with the SEC. We incorporate by reference the following documents we filed with the SEC pursuant to Section 13 of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended (other than any portions of any such documents that are not deemed "filed" under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 in accordance with the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 and applicable SEC rules):

our Current Reports on Form 8-K filed on March 2, 2009, May 4, 2009 (relating to the revision to our historical financial statements), May 8, 2009, June 3, 2009 and August 10, 2009;

our Quarterly Reports on Form 10-Q for the quarters ended March 31 and June 30, 2009;

our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2008;

the description of our common stock contained in our registration statement on Form 10 dated May 7, 1985 (File No. 1-08895), including the amendments dated May 20, 1985 and May 23, 1985, and any other amendment or report filed for the purpose of updating such description, including the description of amendments to our charter contained in our Quarterly Reports on Form 10-Q for the quarters ended June 30, 2001, June 30, 2004 and September 30, 2007;

the description of our 7.25% Series E Cumulative Redeemable Preferred Stock as set forth in our registration statement filed under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 on Form 8-A on September 12, 2003, including any amendment or report for the purpose of updating such description; and

the description of our 7.1% Series F Cumulative Redeemable Preferred Stock as set forth in our registration statement filed under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 on Form 8-A on December 2, 2003, including any amendment or report for the purpose of updating such description.

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We are also incorporating by reference additional documents that we may file with the SEC under Sections 13(a), 13(c), 14 or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 after the date of this prospectus and prior to the termination of the offering of the securities described in this prospectus (other than any portions of any such documents that are not deemed "filed" under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 in accordance with the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 and applicable SEC rules). These documents include periodic reports, such as Annual Reports on Form 10-K, Quarterly Reports on Form 10-Q and Current Reports on Form 8-K, as well as Proxy Statements. Any statement contained in a document incorporated or deemed to be incorporated by reference herein shall be deemed to be modified or superseded for purposes of this prospectus to the extent that a statement contained herein or in any other subsequently filed document which also is or is deemed to be incorporated by reference herein modifies or supersedes such statement. Any such statement so modified or superseded shall not be deemed, except as so modified or superseded, to constitute a part of this prospectus.

Documents incorporated by reference are available from us without charge, excluding all exhibits unless we have specifically incorporated by reference the exhibit in this prospectus. You may obtain documents incorporated by reference in this prospectus by requesting them in writing or by telephone from:

Legal Department
HCP, Inc.
3760 Kilroy Airport Way, Suite 300
Long Beach, California 90806
(562) 733-5100
legaldept@hcpi.com

RISK FACTORS

We have included discussions of cautionary factors describing risks relating to our business and an investment in our securities in our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2008, which is incorporated by reference into this prospectus. See "Where You Can Find More Information" for an explanation of how to get a copy of this report. Additional risks related to our securities may also be described in a prospectus supplement. Before purchasing our securities, you should carefully consider the risk factors we describe in any prospectus supplement or in any report incorporated by reference into this prospectus or such prospectus supplement, including our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2008. Although we discuss key risks in those risk factor descriptions, additional risks not currently known to us or that we currently deem immaterial also may impair our business. Our subsequent filings with the SEC may contain amended and updated discussions of significant risks. We cannot predict future risks or estimate the extent to which they may affect our financial performance.

CAUTIONARY LANGUAGE REGARDING FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS

Statements in this prospectus and the information incorporated by reference in this prospectus or any prospectus supplement within the meaning of the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995 that are not historical factual statements are "forward-looking statements." We intend to have our forward-looking statements covered by the safe harbor provisions of the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995 and include this statement for purposes of complying with those provisions. Forward-looking statements include, among other things, statements regarding our and our officers' intent, belief or expectations as identified by the use of words such as "may," "will," "project," "expect," "believe," "intend," "anticipate," "seek," "forecast," "plan," "estimate," "could," "would," "should" and other comparable and derivative terms or the negatives thereof. In addition, we, through our officers, from time to time, make forward-looking oral and written public statements concerning our expected future operations, strategies, securities offerings, growth and investment opportunities, dispositions, capital structure changes, budgets and other developments. Readers are cautioned that, while forward-looking statements reflect our good faith belief and reasonable assumptions based upon current information, we can give no assurance that our expectations or forecasts will be attained. Therefore, readers should be mindful that forward-looking statements are not guarantees of future performance and that they are subject to known and unknown risks and uncertainties that are difficult to predict. As more fully set forth under "Part I, Item 1A. Risk Factors" in our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2008, factors that may cause our actual results to differ materially from the expectations contained in the forward-looking statements include:

- (a) Changes in national and local economic conditions, including a prolonged recession;
- (b) Continued volatility in the capital markets, including changes in interest rates and the availability and cost of capital;
- (c) The ability of the Company to manage its indebtedness level and changes in the terms of such indebtedness;
- (d) Changes in federal, state or local laws and regulations, including those affecting the healthcare industry that affect our costs of compliance or increase the costs, or otherwise affect the operations of our operators, tenants and borrowers;
- (e) The potential impact of existing and future litigation matters, including related developments;
- (f) Competition for tenants and borrowers, including with respect to new leases and mortgages and the renewal or rollover of existing leases;

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- (g) The ability of the Company to reposition its properties on the same or better terms if existing leases are not renewed or the Company exercises its right to replace an existing operator or tenant upon default;
- (h) Availability of suitable properties to acquire at favorable prices and the competition for the acquisition and financing of those properties;
- (i) The ability of our operators, tenants and borrowers to conduct their respective businesses in a manner sufficient to maintain or increase their revenues and to generate sufficient income to make rent and loan payments to us;
- (j) The financial weakness of some operators and tenants, including potential bankruptcies and downturns in their businesses, which results in uncertainties regarding our ability to continue to realize the full benefit of such operators' and/or tenants' leases;
- (k) The risk that we will not be able to sell or lease properties that are currently vacant, at all or at competitive rates;
- (l) The financial, legal and regulatory difficulties of significant operators of our properties, including Sunrise Senior Living, Inc.;
- (m) The risk that we may not be able to integrate acquired businesses successfully or achieve the operating efficiencies and other benefits of acquisitions within expected time-frames or at all, or within expected cost projections;
- (n) The ability to obtain financing necessary to consummate acquisitions or on favorable terms; and
- (o) Changes in the reimbursement available to our tenants and borrowers by governmental or private payors, including changes in Medicare and Medicaid payment levels and the availability and cost of third party insurance coverage.

Except as required by law, we undertake no, and hereby disclaim any, obligation to update any forward-looking statements, whether as a result of new information, changed circumstances or otherwise.

THE COMPANY

We invest primarily in real estate serving the healthcare industry in the United States. We are a Maryland corporation and were organized to qualify as a REIT in 1985. We are headquartered in Long Beach, California, with offices in Chicago, Illinois; Nashville, Tennessee; and San Francisco, California. We acquire, develop, lease, manage and dispose of healthcare real estate and provide financing to healthcare providers. Our portfolio is comprised of investments in the following five healthcare segments: (i) senior housing, (ii) life science, (iii) medical office, (iv) hospital, and (v) skilled nursing. We make investments within our five healthcare segments using the following five investment products: (i) properties under lease, (ii) investment management, (iii) developments, (iv) mezzanine loans, and (v) non-managing member LLC's.

Our executive offices are located at 3760 Kilroy Airport Way, Suite 300, Long Beach, California 90806, and our telephone number is (562) 733-5100.

RATIO OF EARNINGS TO FIXED CHARGES AND PREFERRED STOCK DIVIDENDS

The following table sets forth our ratios of earnings to fixed charges and our ratios of earnings to combined fixed charges and preferred stock dividends for the periods indicated. In computing the ratios of earnings to fixed charges, earnings have been based on consolidated income from continuing operations before fixed charges (exclusive of capitalized interest). Fixed charges consist of interest on

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debt, including amounts capitalized, an estimate of interest in rental expense, and interest expense related to the guaranteed debt of the partnerships and limited liability companies in which we hold an interest. In computing the ratios of earnings to combined fixed charges and preferred stock dividends, preferred stock dividends consist of dividends on our 7.25% Series E Cumulative Redeemable Preferred Stock and 7.10% Series F Cumulative Redeemable Preferred Stock.

	Year Ended December 31,					For the Six Months Ended
	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	June 30, 2009
Ratio of Earnings to Fixed Charges	1.53	1.41	1.13	1.28	1.51	1.63
Ratio of Earnings to Combined Fixed Charges and Preferred Stock Dividends	1.24	1.18	1.03	1.22	1.43	1.53

USE OF PROCEEDS

Unless otherwise specified in the applicable prospectus supplement for any offering of securities, the net proceeds, after estimated expenses, we receive from the sale of these securities will be used for general corporate purposes, which may include:

funding investments in, or extensions of credit to, our subsidiaries;

funding investments in non-affiliates;

reducing, repaying or refinancing debt;

repurchasing or redeeming outstanding securities;

financing possible acquisitions; and

working capital.

Pending such use, we may temporarily invest net proceeds. We will disclose in the prospectus supplement relating to an offering of securities any intention to use the net proceeds from such offering in connection with an acquisition or to reduce or refinance outstanding debt.

DESCRIPTION OF CAPITAL STOCK WE MAY OFFER

Please note that in this section entitled "Description of Capital Stock We May Offer," references to "holders" mean those who own shares of common stock or preferred stock, registered in their own names, on the books that the registrar or we maintain for this purpose, and not those who own beneficial interests in shares registered in street name or in shares issued in book-entry form through one or more depositories. Owners of beneficial interests in shares of common stock should also read the section entitled "Legal Ownership and Book-Entry Issuance."

The following description summarizes the material provisions of the common stock and preferred stock we may offer. This description is not complete and is subject to, and is qualified in its entirety by reference to our charter and our bylaws and applicable provisions of the Maryland General Corporation Law, or the MGCL. The specific terms of any series of preferred stock will be described in the applicable prospectus supplement. Any series of preferred stock we issue will be governed by our charter and by the articles supplementary related to that series. We will file the articles supplementary with the SEC and incorporate it by reference as an exhibit to our registration statement at or before the time we issue any preferred stock of that series of authorized preferred stock.

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Our authorized capital stock consists of 750,000,000 shares of common stock, par value \$1.00 per share, and 50,000,000 shares of preferred stock, par value \$1.00 per share. The following description does not contain all the information that might be important to you.

Common Stock

As of September 1, 2009, there were 293,137,745 shares of common stock outstanding. All shares of common stock participate equally in dividends payable to holders of common stock, when, as and if authorized by our board and declared by us, and in net assets available for distribution to holders of common stock on liquidation, dissolution, or winding up. Each outstanding share of common stock entitles the holder to one vote on all matters submitted to a vote of our stockholders. Holders of common stock do not have cumulative voting rights in the election of directors.

All issued and outstanding shares of common stock are, and the common stock offered by this prospectus will be upon issuance, validly issued, fully paid and nonassessable. Holders of common stock do not have preference, conversion, exchange or preemptive rights. The common stock is listed on The New York Stock Exchange (NYSE Symbol: HCP).

The Transfer Agent and Registrar for our common stock is Wells Fargo Shareowner Services.

Preferred Stock

Under our charter, our board is authorized without further stockholder action to establish and issue, from time to time, up to 50,000,000 shares of our preferred stock, in one or more series, with such designations, preferences, powers and relative participating, optional or other special rights, and the qualifications, limitations or restrictions thereon, including, but not limited to, dividend rights, dividend rate or rates, conversion rights, voting rights, rights and terms of redemption (including sinking fund provisions), the redemption price or prices, and the liquidation preferences as shall be stated in the resolution providing for the issue of a series of such stock, adopted, at any time or from time to time, by our board. As of September 1, 2009, we had outstanding 4,000,000 shares of 7.25% Series E Cumulative Redeemable Preferred Stock, or Series E Preferred Stock, with a liquidation preference of \$100,000,000 and 7,820,000 shares of 7.10% Series F Cumulative Redeemable Preferred Stock, or Series F Preferred Stock, with a liquidation preference of \$195,500,000.

The following description of the terms of the preferred stock sets forth certain general terms and provisions of the preferred stock to which any prospectus supplement may relate. The preferred stock shall have the dividend, liquidation, redemption and voting rights set forth below unless otherwise provided in a prospectus supplement relating to a particular series of the preferred stock. The terms of any particular series of preferred stock will be described in the prospectus supplement relating to that particular series of preferred stock, including:

the number of shares constituting the series and the distinctive designation thereof;

the voting rights, if any, of the series;

the rate of dividends payable on the series, the time or times when dividends will be payable, the preference to, or any relation to, the payment of dividends to any other class or series of stock and whether the dividends will be cumulative or non-cumulative;

whether there shall be a sinking or similar fund for the purchase of shares of the series and, if so, the terms and provisions that shall govern the fund;

the rights of the holders of shares of the series upon our liquidation, dissolution or winding up;

the rights, if any, of holders of shares of the series to convert their shares into or to exchange the shares for, shares of any other class or classes or any other series of the same or of any

other class or classes of stock of the corporation or any other securities, the price or prices or rate or rates of exchange, with such adjustments as shall be provided, at which the shares shall be convertible or exchangeable, whether such rights of conversion or exchange shall be exercisable at the option of the holder of the shares or upon the happening of a specified event and any other terms or conditions of such conversion or exchange; and

any other preferences, powers and relative participating, optional or other special rights and qualifications, limitations or restrictions of shares of the series.

The preferred stock will, when issued, be fully paid and nonassessable and will have no preemptive rights. Unless otherwise stated in a prospectus supplement relating to a particular series of preferred stock, each series of preferred stock will rank on a parity as to dividends and distributions of assets with each other series of preferred stock. The rights of the holders of each series of preferred stock will be subordinate to those of our general creditors.

Dividend Rights of Preferred Stock

Holders of shares of preferred stock of each series will be entitled to receive, when, as and if declared by our board of directors, out of funds legally available therefor, cash dividends on the dates and at rates as will be set forth in, or as are determined by the method described in, the prospectus supplement relating to the series of preferred stock. The rate may be fixed or variable or both. Each dividend will be payable to the holders of record as they appear on our stock books on the record dates fixed by our board of directors, as specified in the prospectus supplement relating to the series of preferred stock.

Dividends may be cumulative or noncumulative, as provided in the prospectus supplement relating to the series of preferred stock. If our board of directors fails to declare a dividend payable on a dividend payment date on any series of preferred stock for which dividends are noncumulative, then the holders of the series of preferred stock will have no right to receive a dividend in respect of the dividend period ending on the dividend payment date, and we will have no obligation to pay the dividend accrued for such period, whether or not dividends on the series are declared payable on any future dividend payment dates. Dividends on the shares of each series of preferred stock for which dividends are cumulative will accrue from the date on which we initially issue shares of the series.

So long as the shares of any series of preferred stock are outstanding, except as otherwise provided in the prospectus supplement relating to such series, we may not declare any dividends on our common stock or any other stock ranking as to dividends or distributions of assets junior to the series of preferred stock or make any payment on account of, or set apart money for, the purchase, redemption or other retirement of, or for a sinking or other analogous fund for, any shares of junior stock or make any distribution in respect thereof, whether in cash or property or in obligations or stock, other than junior stock which is neither convertible into, nor exchangeable or exercisable for, any securities other than junior stock:

unless, if the preferred stock is cumulative, full dividends for prior dividend periods shall have been paid or declared and set apart for payment on all outstanding shares of preferred stock of the series and all other series of our preferred stock (other than junior stock); and

unless we are not in default or in arrears with respect to the mandatory or optional redemption or mandatory repurchase or other mandatory retirement of, or with respect to any sinking or other analogous fund for, any shares of preferred stock of the series or any shares of any other series of our preferred stock (other than junior stock).

Liquidation Preference

In the event of any liquidation, dissolution or winding up of us, voluntary or involuntary, the holders of each series of the preferred stock will be entitled to receive out of our assets legally available for distribution to stockholders, before any distribution of assets or payment is made to the holders of common stock or any other shares of our stock ranking junior as to such distribution or payment to such series of preferred stock, the amount set forth in the prospectus supplement relating to such series of preferred stock. If, upon any voluntary or involuntary liquidation, dissolution or winding up of us, the amounts payable with respect to the preferred stock of any series and any other shares of preferred stock (including any other series of the preferred stock) ranking as to any such distribution on a parity with such series of preferred stock are not paid in full, the holders of the preferred stock of such series and of such other shares of preferred stock will share ratably in any such distribution of our assets in proportion to the full respective preferential amounts to which they are entitled. After payment to the holders of the preferred stock of each series of the full preferential amounts of the liquidating distribution to which they are entitled, the holders of each such series of preferred stock will be entitled to no further participation in any distribution of our assets.

If such payment shall have been made in full to all holders of shares of preferred stock, our remaining assets will be distributed among the holders of any other classes of stock ranking junior to the preferred stock upon liquidation, dissolution or winding up, according to their respective rights and preferences and in each case according to their respective number of shares. For such purposes, our consolidation or merger with or into any other corporation, or the sale, lease or conveyance of all or substantially all of our property or business, shall not be deemed to constitute a liquidation, dissolution or winding up of us.

In determining whether a distribution (other than upon voluntary or involuntary liquidation) by dividend, redemption or other acquisition of shares of our stock or otherwise is permitted under the MGCL, no effect shall be given to amounts that would be needed, if we would be dissolved at the time of the distribution, to satisfy the preferential rights upon dissolution of holders of shares of our stock whose preferential rights upon dissolution are superior to those receiving the distribution.

Redemption

A series of preferred stock may be redeemable, in whole or from time to time in part, at our option, and may be subject to mandatory redemption pursuant to a sinking fund or otherwise, in each case upon terms, at the times and at the redemption prices set forth in the prospectus supplement relating to such series. Shares of the preferred stock redeemed by us will be restored to the status of authorized but unissued shares of preferred stock.

In the event that fewer than all of the outstanding shares of a series of the preferred stock are to be redeemed, whether by mandatory or optional redemption, the number of shares to be redeemed will be determined by lot or pro rata (subject to rounding to avoid fractional shares) as may be determined by us or by any other method as may be determined by us in our sole discretion to be equitable. From and after the redemption date (unless default shall be made by us in providing for the payment of the redemption price plus accumulated and unpaid dividends, if any), dividends shall cease to accumulate on the shares of the preferred stock called for redemption and all rights of the holders thereof (except the right to receive the redemption price plus accumulated and unpaid dividends, if any) shall cease.

So long as any dividends on shares of any series of preferred stock or any other series of preferred stock ranking on a parity as to dividends and distributions of assets with such series of preferred stock are in arrears, no shares of any such series of the preferred stock or such other series of preferred stock will be redeemed (whether by mandatory or optional redemption) unless all such shares are simultaneously redeemed, and we will not purchase or otherwise acquire any such shares. However, the foregoing will not prevent the purchase or acquisition of such shares of preferred stock of such series

or of shares of such other series of preferred stock in order to ensure that we continue to meet the requirements for qualification as a REIT for federal and state income tax purposes or pursuant to a purchase or exchange offer made on the same terms to holders of all outstanding shares of preferred stock of such series and, unless the full cumulative dividends on all outstanding shares of any cumulative preferred stock of such series and any other stock ranking on a parity with such series as to dividends and upon liquidation shall have been paid or contemporaneously are declared and paid for all past dividend periods, we will not purchase or otherwise acquire directly or indirectly any shares of preferred stock of such series (except by conversion into or exchange for our stock) ranking junior to the preferred stock of such series as to dividends and upon liquidation.

Notice of redemption will be mailed at least 30 days but not more than 60 days before the redemption date to each holder of record of shares of preferred stock to be redeemed at the address shown on our stock transfer books. After the redemption date, dividends will cease to accrue on the shares of preferred stock called for redemption and all rights of the holders of such shares will terminate, except the right to receive the redemption price without interest plus accumulated and unpaid dividends, if any.

Conversion Rights

The terms, if any, on which shares of preferred stock of any series may be exchanged for or converted (mandatorily or otherwise) into shares of common stock or another series of preferred stock will be set forth in the prospectus supplement relating thereto.

Voting Rights

Except as indicated below or in a prospectus supplement relating to a particular series of preferred stock, the holders of the preferred stock will not be entitled to vote for any purpose.

So long as any shares of preferred stock remain outstanding, we will not, without the consent or the affirmative vote of the holders of two-thirds of the shares of each series of preferred stock outstanding at the time given in person or by proxy, either in writing or at a meeting (such series voting separately as a class):

authorize, create or issue, or increase the authorized or issued amount of, any series of stock ranking prior to such series of preferred stock with respect to payment of dividends, or the distribution of assets on liquidation, dissolution or winding up or reclassifying any of our authorized stock into any such shares, or create, authorize or issue any obligation or security convertible into or evidencing the right to purchase any such shares; or

repeal, amend or otherwise change any of the provisions of our charter applicable to the preferred stock of such series in any manner which materially and adversely affects the powers, preferences, voting power or other rights or privileges of such series of preferred stock or the holders thereof; provided, however, that any increase in the amount of the authorized preferred stock or the creation or issuance of other series of preferred stock, or any increase in the amount of authorized shares of such series or of any other series of preferred stock, in each case ranking on a parity with or junior to the preferred stock of such series, shall not be deemed to materially and adversely affect such rights, preferences, privileges or voting powers.

The foregoing voting provisions will not apply if, at or prior to the time when the act with respect to which such vote would otherwise be required shall be effected, all outstanding shares of the preferred stock shall have been redeemed or called for redemption and sufficient funds shall have been deposited in trust to effect such redemption.

Series E Preferred Stock

Voting Rights

Holders of Series E Preferred Stock generally do not have any voting rights, except in limited circumstances.

If dividends on any shares of Series E Preferred Stock are in arrears for six or more quarterly periods, whether or not consecutive, the holders of Series E Preferred Stock (voting separately as a class with all other classes or series of preferred stock upon which like voting rights have been conferred and are exercisable) are entitled to vote for the election of a total of two additional directors of HCP at a special meeting called by the holders of record of at least 25% of the Series E Preferred Stock or the holders of any other class or series of preferred stock so in arrears or at the next annual meeting of stockholders. These voting rights continue at each subsequent annual meeting until all dividends accumulated on such shares of Series E Preferred Stock for the past dividend periods and the dividend for the then current dividend period shall have been fully paid or declared and set aside for payment. In such case, our entire board is increased by two directors.

So long as any shares of Series E Preferred Stock remain outstanding, we shall not, without the consent or the affirmative vote of the holders of at least two-thirds of the shares of Series E Preferred Stock outstanding at the time, given in person or by proxy, either in writing or at a meeting, with the Series E Preferred Stock voting separately as a class:

authorize, create or issue, or increase the authorized or issued amount of, any class or series of stock ranking prior to the Series E Preferred Stock with respect to the payment of dividends, or the distribution of assets on liquidation, dissolution or winding up;

reclassify any of our authorized stock into any such shares, or authorize, create or issue any obligation or security convertible into or evidencing the right to purchase any class or series of stock ranking prior to the Series E Preferred Stock with respect to the payment of dividends, or the distribution of assets on liquidation, dissolution or winding up; or

repeal, amend or otherwise change any of the provisions applicable to the Series E Preferred Stock in any manner which materially and adversely affects the powers, preferences, voting power or other rights or privileges of the Series E Preferred Stock. However, an increase in the amount of authorized preferred stock, the creation or issuance of other classes or series of preferred stock or any increase in the amount of authorized shares of Series E Preferred Stock or of any other class or series of preferred stock, in each case ranking on a parity with or junior to the Series E Preferred Stock, will not be deemed to materially and adversely affect such rights, preferences, privileges or voting powers.

The consent of the holders of Series E Preferred Stock is not required for the taking of any corporate action, including any merger or consolidation involving us or a sale of all or substantially all of our assets, regardless of the effect that such merger, consolidation or sale may have upon the rights, preferences or voting power of the holders of the Series E Preferred Stock, except as expressly set forth in the provisions of our charter.

Rank

With respect to dividend rights and rights upon liquidation, dissolution or winding up of HCP, the Series E Preferred Stock ranks:

senior to the common stock, and to all equity securities issued by us ranking junior to the Series E Preferred Stock with respect to dividend rights or rights upon liquidation, dissolution or winding up of HCP;

on a parity with all equity securities issued by us the terms of which specifically provide that such equity securities rank on a parity with the Series E Preferred Stock with respect to dividend rights or rights upon liquidation, dissolution or winding up of HCP; and

junior to all equity securities issued by us the terms of which specifically provide that such equity securities rank senior to the Series E Preferred Stock with respect to dividend rights or rights upon liquidation, dissolution or winding up of HCP.

The term "equity securities" does not include convertible debt securities, which rank senior to the Series E Preferred Stock prior to conversion.

Dividends

Holders of shares of the Series E Preferred Stock are entitled to receive, when, as, and if declared by our board out of funds legally available for the payment of dividends, cumulative preferential annual cash dividends at the rate of 7.25% of the liquidation preference (equivalent to \$1.8125 per annum per share).

Dividends on the Series E Preferred Stock are cumulative from the date of original issue and payable quarterly in arrears on or about the last day of each March, June, September and December or, if not a business day, the next succeeding business day.

No dividends may be declared by our board or paid or set apart for payment on the Series E Preferred Stock if the terms of any of our agreements, including any agreement relating to its indebtedness, prohibits such a declaration, payment or setting apart for payment or provides that such declaration, payment or setting apart for payment would constitute a breach of or default under such an agreement. Likewise, no dividends may be declared by our board or paid or set apart for payment if such declaration or payment is restricted or prohibited by law.

Dividends on the Series E Preferred Stock accrue, however, whether or not we have earnings, whether or not there are funds legally available for the payment of such dividends and whether or not such dividends are declared. Accrued but unpaid dividends on the Series E Preferred Stock do not bear interest and holders of the Series E Preferred Stock are not entitled to any dividends in excess of full cumulative dividends described above. Any dividend payment made on the Series E Preferred Stock is first credited against the earliest accrued but unpaid dividend due that remains payable.

No full dividends may be declared or paid or set apart for payment on any class or series of preferred stock ranking, as to dividends, on a parity with or junior to the Series E Preferred Stock, other than a dividend in shares of any class of stock ranking junior to the Series E Preferred Stock as to dividends and upon liquidation, for any period unless full cumulative dividends have been or contemporaneously are declared and paid or declared and set apart for such payment on the Series E Preferred Stock for all past dividend periods and the then current dividend period. When dividends are not paid in full, or full payment is not so set apart, upon the Series E Preferred Stock and the shares of any other class or series of preferred stock ranking on a parity as to dividends with the Series E Preferred Stock, all dividends declared upon the Series E Preferred Stock and any other class or series of preferred stock ranking on a parity as to dividends with the Series E Preferred Stock are declared pro rata so that the amount of dividends declared per share of Series E Preferred Stock and such other class or series of preferred stock shall in all cases bear to each other the same ratio that accrued dividends per share on the Series E Preferred Stock and such other class or series of preferred stock, which cannot include any accrual in respect of unpaid dividends for prior dividend periods if such preferred stock does not have a cumulative dividend, bear to each other.

Except as provided in the preceding paragraph, unless full cumulative dividends on the Series E Preferred Stock have been or contemporaneously are declared and paid or declared and set apart for payment for all past dividend periods and the then current dividend period, then, other than the

payment of dividends in shares of common stock or other shares of capital stock ranking junior to the Series E Preferred Stock as to dividends and upon liquidation:

no dividends may be declared or paid or set aside for payment upon the common stock, or any other of our capital stock ranking junior to or on a parity with the Series E Preferred Stock as to dividends or upon liquidation;

no other distribution may be declared or made upon the common stock, or any other of our capital stock ranking junior to or on a parity with the Series E Preferred Stock as to dividends or upon liquidation; and

no shares of common stock, or any other shares of our capital stock ranking junior to or on a parity with the Series E Preferred Stock as to dividends or upon liquidation may be redeemed, purchased or otherwise acquired for any consideration by us, except by conversion into or exchange for other of our capital stock ranking junior to the Series E Preferred Stock as to dividends and upon liquidation or for the purpose of preserving our qualification as a real estate investment trust.

Liquidation Preferences

Upon any liquidation, dissolution or winding up of the affairs of HCP, the holders of Series E Preferred Stock are entitled to be paid out of our assets legally available for distribution to our stockholders a liquidation preference of \$25 per share, plus an amount equal to any accrued and unpaid dividends to the date of payment, before any distribution of assets is made to holders of common stock or any other class or series of our capital stock that ranks junior to the Series E Preferred Stock as to liquidation rights.

In determining whether a distribution (other than upon voluntary or involuntary liquidation) by dividend, redemption or other acquisition of shares of our stock or otherwise is permitted under the MGCL, no effect is given to amounts that would be needed if we would be dissolved at the time of the distribution, to satisfy the preferential rights upon distribution of holders of shares of our stock whose preferential rights upon distribution are superior to those receiving the distribution.

Maturity; Redemption

The Series E Preferred Stock has no stated maturity, is not subject to any sinking fund or mandatory redemption. We are entitled to purchase shares of the Series E Preferred Stock in order to preserve our status as a real estate investment trust for federal or state income tax purposes at any time. We may, at our option, redeem the Series E Preferred Stock at \$25 per share (\$100,000,000 in the aggregate), plus accrued and unpaid dividends.

Transfer and Ownership Restrictions

See " Transfer and Ownership Restrictions Relating to our Preferred Stock."

Series F Preferred Stock

Voting Rights

Holders of the Series F Preferred Stock generally do not have any voting rights, except in limited circumstances.

If dividends on any shares of Series F Preferred Stock are in arrears for six or more quarterly periods, whether or not consecutive, the holders of Series F Preferred Stock (voting separately as a class with all other classes or series of preferred stock upon which like voting rights have been conferred and are exercisable, including the Series E Preferred Stock) are entitled to vote for the

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election of a total of two additional directors of HCP at a special meeting called by the holders of record of at least 25% of the Series F Preferred Stock or the holders of any other class or series of preferred stock so in arrears or at the next annual meeting of stockholders. These voting rights continue at each subsequent annual meeting until all dividends accumulated on such shares of Series F Preferred Stock for the past dividend periods and the dividend for the then current dividend period shall have been fully paid or declared and set aside for payment. In such case, our entire board is increased by two directors.

So long as any shares of Series F Preferred Stock remain outstanding, we shall not, without the consent or the affirmative vote of the holders of at least two-thirds of the shares of Series F Preferred Stock outstanding at the time, given in person or by proxy, either in writing or at a meeting, with the Series F Preferred Stock voting separately as a class:

authorize, create or issue, or increase the authorized or issued amount of, any class or series of stock ranking prior to the Series F Preferred Stock with respect to the payment of dividends, or the distribution of assets on liquidation, dissolution or winding up;

reclassify any of our authorized stock into any such shares, or authorize, create or issue any obligation or security convertible into or evidencing the right to purchase any class or series of stock ranking prior to the Series F Preferred Stock with respect to the payment of dividends, or the distribution of assets on liquidation, dissolution or winding up; or

repeal, amend or otherwise change any of the provisions applicable to the Series F Preferred Stock in any manner which materially and adversely affects the powers, preferences, voting power or other rights or privileges of the Series F Preferred Stock. However, an increase in the amount of authorized preferred stock, the creation or issuance of other classes or series of preferred stock or any increase in the amount of authorized shares of Series F Preferred Stock or of any other class or series of preferred stock, in each case ranking on a parity with or junior to the Series F Preferred Stock, will not be deemed to materially and adversely affect such rights, preferences, privileges or voting powers.

The consent of the holders of Series F Preferred Stock is not required for the taking of any corporate action, including any merger or consolidation involving us or a sale of all or substantially all of our assets, regardless of the effect that such merger, consolidation or sale may have upon the rights, preferences or voting power of the holders of the Series F Preferred Stock, except as expressly set forth in the provisions of our charter.

Rank

With respect to dividend rights and rights upon liquidation, dissolution or winding up of HCP, the Series F Preferred Stock ranks:

senior to the common stock, and to all equity securities issued by us ranking junior to the Series F Preferred Stock with respect to dividend rights or rights upon liquidation, dissolution or winding up of HCP;

on a parity with the Series E Preferred Stock and with all equity securities issued by us the terms of which specifically provide that such equity securities rank on a parity with the Series F Preferred Stock with respect to dividend rights or rights upon liquidation, dissolution or winding up of HCP; and

junior to all equity securities issued by us the terms of which specifically provide that such equity securities rank senior to the Series F Preferred Stock with respect to dividend rights or rights upon liquidation, dissolution or winding up of HCP.

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The term "equity securities" does not include convertible debt securities, which rank senior to the Series F Preferred Stock prior to conversion.

Dividends

Holders of the Series F Preferred Stock are entitled to receive, when, as, and if declared by our board, out of funds legally available for the payment of dividends, cumulative preferential annual cash dividends at the rate of 7.10% of the liquidation preference (equivalent to \$1.775 per annum per share).

Dividends on the Series F Preferred Stock are cumulative from the date of original issue and payable quarterly in arrears on or about the last day of each March, June, September and December or, if not a business day, the next succeeding business day. Any dividend payable on the Series F Preferred Stock, including dividends payable for any partial dividend period, are computed on the basis of a 360-day year consisting of twelve 30-day months.

No dividends may be declared by our board or paid or set apart for payment on the Series F Preferred Stock if the terms of any of our agreements, including any agreement relating to its indebtedness, prohibits such a declaration, payment or setting apart for payment or provides that such declaration, payment or setting apart for payment would constitute a breach of or default under such an agreement. Likewise, no dividends may be declared by our board or paid or set apart for payment if such declaration or payment is restricted or prohibited by law.

Dividends on the Series F Preferred Stock accrue, however, whether or not we have earnings, whether or not there are funds legally available for the payment of such dividends and whether or not such dividends are declared. Accrued but unpaid dividends on the Series F Preferred Stock do not bear interest and holders of the Series F Preferred Stock are not entitled to any dividends in excess of full cumulative dividends described above. Any dividend payment made on the Series F Preferred Stock is first credited against the earliest accrued but unpaid dividend due that remains payable.

No full dividends may be declared or paid or set apart for payment on any class or series of preferred stock ranking, as to dividends, on a parity with or junior to the Series F Preferred Stock, other than a dividend in shares of any class of stock ranking junior to the Series F Preferred Stock as to dividends and upon liquidation, for any period unless full cumulative dividends have been or contemporaneously are declared and paid or declared and set apart for such payment on the Series F Preferred Stock for all past dividend periods and the then current dividend period. When dividends are not paid in full (or full payment is not so set apart) upon the Series F Preferred Stock and the shares of any other class or series of preferred stock ranking on a parity as to dividends with the Series F Preferred Stock, including the Series E Preferred Stock, all dividends declared upon the Series F Preferred Stock and any other class or series of preferred stock ranking on a parity as to dividends with the Series F Preferred Stock are declared pro rata so that the amount of dividends declared per share of Series F Preferred Stock and such other class or series of preferred stock shall in all cases bear to each other the same ratio that accrued dividends per share on the Series F Preferred Stock and such other class or series of preferred stock, which shall not include any accrual in respect of unpaid dividends for prior dividend periods if such preferred stock does not have a cumulative dividend, bear to each other.

Except as provided in the preceding paragraph, unless full cumulative dividends on the Series F Preferred Stock have been or contemporaneously are declared and paid or declared and set apart for payment for all past dividend periods and the then current dividend period, then, other than the

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payment of dividends in shares of common stock or other shares of capital stock ranking junior to the Series F Preferred Stock as to dividends and upon liquidation:

no dividends may be declared or paid or set aside for payment upon the common stock, or any other of our capital stock ranking junior to or on a parity with the Series F Preferred Stock as to dividends or upon liquidation;

no other distribution may be declared or made upon the common stock, or any other of our capital stock ranking junior to or on a parity with the Series F Preferred Stock as to dividends or upon liquidation; and

no shares of common stock, or any other shares of our capital stock ranking junior to or on a parity with the Series F Preferred Stock as to dividends or upon liquidation may be redeemed, purchased or otherwise acquired for any consideration by us, except by conversion into or exchange for other of our capital stock ranking junior to the Series F Preferred Stock as to dividends and upon liquidation or for the purpose of preserving our qualification as a real estate investment trust.

Liquidation Preferences

Upon any liquidation, dissolution or winding up of the affairs of HCP, the holders of Series F Preferred Stock are entitled to be paid out of our assets legally available for distribution to our stockholders a liquidation preference of \$25 per share, plus an amount equal to any accrued and unpaid dividends to the date of payment, before any distribution of assets is made to holders of common stock or any other class or series of our capital stock that ranks junior to the Series F Preferred Stock as to liquidation rights.

In determining whether a distribution, other than upon voluntary or involuntary liquidation, by dividend, redemption or other acquisition of shares of our stock or otherwise is permitted under the MGCL, no effect is given to amounts that would be needed if we would be dissolved at the time of the distribution, to satisfy the preferential rights upon distribution of holders of shares of our stock whose preferential rights upon distribution are superior to those receiving the distribution.

Maturity; Redemption

The Series F Preferred Stock has no stated maturity, is not subject to any sinking fund or mandatory redemption. We are entitled to purchase shares of the Series F Preferred Stock in order to preserve our status as a real estate investment trust for federal or state income tax purposes at any time. We may, at our option, redeem the Series F Preferred Stock at \$25 per share (\$195,500,000 in the aggregate), plus accrued and unpaid dividends.

Transfer and Ownership Restrictions

See " Transfer and Ownership Restrictions Relating to our Preferred Stock."

Transfer and Ownership Restrictions Relating to our Common Stock

Our charter contains restrictions on the ownership and transfer of our voting stock that are intended to assist us in complying with the requirements to continue to qualify as a REIT. Subject to limited exceptions, no person or entity may own, or be deemed to own by virtue of the applicable constructive ownership provisions of the Internal Revenue Code, more than 9.8% (by number or value, whichever is more restrictive) of the outstanding shares of our common stock. Our board may, but is in no event required to, waive the applicable ownership limit with respect to a particular stockholder if it determines that such ownership will not jeopardize our status as a REIT and our board otherwise decides such action would be in our best interests.

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These charter provisions further prohibit:

any person from actually or constructively owning shares of our stock that would result in our being "closely held" under Section 856(h) of the Internal Revenue Code or otherwise cause us to fail to qualify as a real estate investment trust (including but not limited to ownership that would result in us owning, actually or constructively, an interest in a tenant as described in Section 856(d)(2)(B) of the Internal Revenue Code if the income derived by us, either directly or indirectly, from such tenant would cause us to fail to satisfy any of the gross income requirements of Section 856(c) of the Internal Revenue Code); and

any person from transferring shares of our capital stock if such transfer would result in shares of our stock being beneficially owned by fewer than 100 persons (determined without reference to any rules of attribution).

Any person who acquires or attempts or intends to acquire actual or constructive ownership of shares of our stock that will or may violate any of these restrictions on ownership and transfer is required to give notice immediately to us and provide us with such other information as we may request in order to determine the effect of the transfer on our status as a REIT. Under our charter, if any purported transfer of our stock or any other event would otherwise result in any person violating the applicable ownership limit or such other limit as permitted by our board, then any such purported transfer is void and of no force or effect with respect to the purported transferee as to that number of shares of our stock in excess of the ownership limit or such other limit, and the transferee will acquire no right or interest in such excess shares. Any excess shares described above are transferred automatically, by operation of law, to a trust, the beneficiary of which is a qualified charitable organization selected by us. Such automatic transfer will be deemed to be effective as of the close of business on the business day prior to the date of such violative transfer. Within 20 days of receiving notice from us of the transfer of shares to the trust, the trustee of the trust is required to sell the excess shares to a person or entity who could own the shares without violating the applicable ownership limit, or such other limit as permitted by our board, and distribute to the prohibited transferee an amount equal to the lesser of the price paid by the prohibited transferee for the excess shares or the sales proceeds received by the trust for the excess shares. Any proceeds in excess of the amount distributable to the prohibited transferee are distributed to the beneficiary of the trust. Prior to a sale of any such excess shares by the trust, the trustee is entitled to receive, in trust for the beneficiary, all dividends and other distributions paid by us with respect to such excess shares, and also is entitled to exercise all voting rights with respect to such excess shares.

Subject to Maryland law, effective as of the date that such shares have been transferred to the trust, the trustee will have the authority, at the trustee's sole discretion:

to rescind as void any vote cast by a prohibited transferee prior to the discovery by us that the shares have been transferred to the trust; or

to recast such vote in accordance with the desires of the trustee acting for the benefit of the beneficiary of the trust.

However, if we have already taken irreversible corporate action, then the trustee will not have the authority to rescind and recast such vote. Any dividend or other distribution paid to the prohibited transferee, prior to the discovery by us that such shares had been automatically transferred to a trust as described above, are required to be repaid to the trustee upon demand for distribution to the beneficiary of the trust. In the event that the transfer to the trust as described above is not automatically effective, for any reason, to prevent violation of the ownership limit or such other limit as permitted by our board, then our charter provides that the transfer of the excess shares is void ab initio.

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In addition, shares of common stock held in the trust shall be deemed to have been offered for sale to us, or our designee, at a price per share equal to the lesser of:

the price per share in the transaction that resulted in such transfer to the trust or, in the case of a devise or gift, the market price at the time of such devise or gift; and

the market price on the date we, or our designee, accepted the offer.

We will have the right to accept the offer until the trustee has sold the shares of stock held in the trust. Upon a sale to us, the interest of the beneficiary in the shares sold will terminate and the trustee will distribute the net proceeds of the sale to the prohibited transferee.

If any purported transfer of shares of common stock would cause us to be beneficially owned by fewer than 100 persons, such transfer will be null and void ab initio in its entirety and the intended transferee will acquire no rights to the stock.

All certificates representing shares of common stock bear a legend referring to the restrictions described above. The foregoing ownership limitations could delay, defer or prevent a transaction or a change in control of us that might involve a premium price for the common stock or otherwise be in the best interest of our stockholders.

In addition, if our board of directors shall, at any time and in good faith, be of the opinion that direct or indirect ownership of at least 9.9% of the voting shares of capital stock has or may become concentrated in the hands of one beneficial owner, it shall have the power:

by lot or other means deemed equitable by it to call for the purchase from any stockholder of a number of voting shares sufficient, in the opinion of our board of directors, to maintain or bring the direct or indirect ownership of voting shares of capital stock of the beneficial owner to a level of no more than 9.9% of our outstanding voting shares; and

to refuse to transfer or issue voting shares of capital stock to any person whose acquisition of such voting shares would, in the opinion of the board of directors, result in the direct or indirect ownership by that person of more than 9.9% of the outstanding voting shares of our capital stock.

If our board of directors fails to grant an exemption from this 9.9% ownership limitation, then the transfer of shares, options, warrants, or other securities convertible into voting shares that would create a beneficial owner of more than 9.9% of the outstanding voting shares shall be deemed void ab initio, and the intended transferee shall be deemed never to have had an interest in the transferred securities. The purchase price for any voting shares of capital stock so redeemed shall be equal to the fair market value of the shares reflected in the closing sales price for the shares, if then listed on a national securities exchange, or the average of the closing sales prices for the shares if then listed on more than one national securities exchange, or if the shares are not then listed on a national securities exchange, the latest bid quotation for the shares if then traded over-the-counter, on the last business day immediately preceding the day on which we send notices of such acquisitions, or, if no such closing sales prices or quotations are available, then the purchase price shall be equal to the net asset value of such stock as determined by the board of directors in accordance with the provisions of applicable law. From and after the date fixed for purchase by the board of directors, the holder of any shares so called for purchase shall cease to be entitled to distributions, voting rights and other benefits with respect to such shares, except the right to payment of the purchase price for the shares.

Business Combination Provisions

Our charter requires that, except in some circumstances, "business combinations" between us and a beneficial holder of 10% or more of our outstanding voting stock (a "Related Person") be approved

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by the affirmative vote of at least 90% of our outstanding voting shares. A "business combination" is defined in our charter as:

any merger or consolidation with or into a Related Person;

any sale, lease, exchange, transfer or other disposition, including without limitation a mortgage or any other security device, of all or any "Substantial Part" (as defined below) of our assets, including any voting securities of a subsidiary, to a Related Person;

any merger or consolidation of a Related Person with or into us;

any sale, lease, exchange, transfer or other disposition of all or any Substantial Part of the assets of a Related Person to us;

the issuance of any of our securities, other than by way of pro rata distribution to all stockholders, to a Related Person; and

any agreement, contract or other arrangement providing for any of the transactions described above.

The term "Substantial Part" means more than 10% of the book value of our total assets as of the end of our most recent fiscal year ending prior to the time the determination is being made.

In addition to the restrictions on business combinations contained in our charter, Maryland law also contains restrictions on business combinations. See "Certain Provisions of Maryland Law and HCP's Charter and Bylaws Business Combinations."

The foregoing provisions may have the effect of discouraging unilateral tender offers or other takeover proposals which stockholders might deem to be in their interests or in which they might receive a substantial premium. The HCP board's authority to issue and establish the terms of currently authorized preferred stock, without stockholder approval, may also have the effect of discouraging takeover attempts. See " Preferred Stock."

The foregoing provisions could also have the effect of insulating current management against the possibility of removal and could, by possibly reducing temporary fluctuations in market price caused by accumulations of shares of our common stock, deprive stockholders of opportunities to sell at a temporarily higher market price. Our board believes, however, that inclusion of the business combination provisions in our charter may help assure fair treatment of our stockholders and preserve our assets.

Transfer and Ownership Restrictions Relating to our Preferred Stock

Our charter contains restrictions on the ownership and transfer of preferred stock that are intended to assist us in complying with the requirements to maintain its status as a REIT. Subject to limited exceptions, no person or entity may own, or be deemed to own by virtue of the applicable constructive ownership provisions of the Internal Revenue Code, more than 9.8% (by number or value, whichever is more restrictive) of the outstanding shares of Series E Preferred Stock or Series F Preferred Stock. Our board of directors may, but in no event is required to, waive the applicable ownership limit with respect to a particular stockholder if it determines that such ownership will not jeopardize our status as a REIT and our board of directors otherwise decides such action would be in our best interests. The mechanics for the ownership limits on our preferred stock are similar to the mechanics related to our common stock, as described in "Transfer and Ownership Restrictions Relating to our Common Stock" above.

DESCRIPTION OF DEPOSITARY SHARES WE MAY OFFER

Please note that in this section entitled "Description of the Depositary Shares We May Offer," references to "holders" mean those who own depositary shares registered in their own names, on the books that the registrar or we maintain for this purpose, and not those who own beneficial interests in shares registered in street name or in shares issued in book-entry form through one or more depositaries. Owners of beneficial interests in depositary shares should also read the section entitled "Legal Ownership and Book-Entry Issuance."

This section outlines some of the provisions of the deposit agreement to govern any depositary shares, the depositary shares themselves and the depositary receipts. This information may not be complete in all respects and is qualified entirely by reference to the relevant deposit agreement and depositary receipts with respect to the depositary shares related to any particular series of preferred stock. The specific terms of any series of depositary shares will be described in the applicable prospectus supplement. If so described in the prospectus supplement, the terms of that series of depositary shares may differ from the general description of terms presented below.

Interest in a Fractional Share, or Multiple Shares, of Preferred Stock

We may, at our option, elect to offer depositary shares, each of which would represent an interest in a fractional share, or multiple shares, of our preferred stock instead of whole shares of preferred stock. If so, we will allow a depositary to issue to the public depositary shares, each of which will represent an interest in a fractional share, or multiple shares, of preferred stock as described in the prospectus supplement.

Deposit Agreement

The shares of the preferred stock underlying any depositary shares will be deposited under a separate deposit agreement between us and a bank or trust company acting as depositary with respect to those shares of preferred stock. The prospectus supplement relating to a series of depositary shares will specify the name and address of the depositary. Under the deposit agreement, each owner of a depositary share will be entitled, in proportion of its interest in a fractional share, or multiple shares, of the preferred stock underlying that depositary share, to all the rights and preferences of that preferred stock, including dividend, voting, redemption, conversion, exchange and liquidation rights.

Depositary shares will be evidenced by one or more depositary receipts issued under the deposit agreement. We will distribute depositary receipts to those persons purchasing such depositary shares in accordance with the terms of the offering made by the related prospectus supplement.

Dividends and Other Distributions

The depositary will distribute all cash dividends or other cash distributions in respect of the preferred stock underlying the depositary shares to each record depositary shareholder based on the number of the depositary shares owned by that holder on the relevant record date. The depositary will distribute only that amount which can be distributed without attributing to any depositary shareholders a fraction of one cent, and any balance not so distributed will be added to and treated as part of the next sum received by the depositary for distribution to record depositary shareholders.

If there is a distribution other than in cash, the depositary will distribute property to the entitled record depositary shareholders, unless the depositary determines that it is not feasible to make that distribution. In that case the depositary may, with our approval, adopt the method it deems equitable and practicable for making that distribution, including any sale of property and the distribution of the net proceeds from this sale to the concerned holders.

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Each deposit agreement will also contain provisions relating to the manner in which any subscription or similar rights we offer to holders of the relevant series of preferred stock will be made available to depositary shareholders.

The amount distributed in all of the foregoing cases will be reduced by any amounts required to be withheld by us or the depositary on account of taxes and governmental charges.

Withdrawal of Stock

Upon surrender of depositary receipts at the office of the depositary and upon payment of the charges provided in the deposit agreement and subject to the terms thereof, a holder of depositary receipts is entitled to have the depositary deliver to such holder the applicable number of shares of preferred stock underlying the depositary shares evidenced by the surrendered depositary receipts. There may be no market, however, for the underlying preferred stock and once the underlying preferred stock is withdrawn from the depositary, it may not be redeposited.

Redemption and Liquidation

The terms on which the depositary shares relating to the preferred stock of any series may be redeemed, and any amounts distributable upon our liquidation, dissolution or winding up, will be described in the applicable prospectus supplement.

Voting

Upon receiving notice of any meeting at which preferred stockholders of any series are entitled to vote, the depositary will mail the information contained in that notice to the record depositary shareholders relating to those series of preferred stock. Each depositary shareholder on the record date will be entitled to instruct the depositary on how to vote the shares of preferred stock underlying that holder's depositary shares. The depositary will vote the shares of preferred stock underlying those depositary shares according to those instructions, and we will take reasonably necessary actions to enable the depositary to do so. If the depositary does not receive specific instructions from the depositary shareholders relating to that preferred stock, it will abstain from voting those shares of preferred stock, unless otherwise discussed in the prospectus supplement.

Charges of Depositary

We will pay all transfer and other taxes and governmental charges arising solely from the existence of the depositary arrangements. We will also pay all charges of each depositary in connection with the initial deposit and any redemption of the preferred stock. Depositary shareholders will be required to pay any other transfer and other taxes and governmental charges and any other charges expressly provided in the deposit agreement to be for their accounts.

Miscellaneous

Each depositary will forward to the relevant depositary shareholders all our reports and communications that we are required to furnish to preferred stockholders of any series.

The deposit agreement will contain provisions relating to adjustments in the fraction of a share of preferred stock represented by a depositary share in the event of a change in par value, split-up, combination or other reclassification of the preferred stock or upon any recapitalization, merger or sale of substantially all of our assets.

Neither the depositary nor HCP will be liable if it is prevented or delayed by law or any circumstance beyond its control in performing its obligations under any deposit agreement, or subject to any liability under the deposit agreement to holders of depositary receipts other than for the

relevant party's gross negligence or willful misconduct. The obligations of HCP and each depositary under any deposit agreement will be limited to performance in good faith of their duties under that agreement, and they will not be obligated to prosecute or defend any legal proceeding in respect of any depositary shares or preferred stock unless they are provided with satisfactory indemnity. They may rely upon written advice of counsel or accountants, or information provided by persons presenting preferred stock for deposit, depositary shareholders or other persons believed to be competent and on documents believed to be genuine.

Title

HCP, each depositary and any of their agents may treat the registered owner of any depositary share as the absolute owner of that share, whether or not any payment in respect of that depositary share is overdue and despite any notice to the contrary, for any purpose. See "Legal Ownership and Book-Entry Issuance."

Resignation and Removal of Depositary

A depositary may resign at any time by issuing us a notice of resignation, and we may remove any depositary at any time by issuing it a notice of removal. Resignation or removal will take effect upon the appointment of a successor depositary and its acceptance of appointment. That successor depositary must be appointed within 60 days after delivery of the notice of resignation or removal.

DESCRIPTION OF THE DEBT SECURITIES WE MAY OFFER

Please note that in this section entitled "Description of the Debt Securities We May Offer," references to "holders" mean those who own debt securities registered in their own names on the books that we or the trustee maintain for this purpose, and not those who own beneficial interests in debt securities registered in street name or in debt securities issued in book-entry form through one or more depositaries. Owners of beneficial interests in the debt securities should also read the section entitled "Legal Ownership and Book-Entry Issuance."

The following description summarizes the material provisions of our debt securities. The debt securities are to be issued under an existing indenture dated as of September 1, 1993 between us and The Bank of New York Mellon Trust Company, N.A., as trustee (the "indenture"), which has been filed with the SEC and incorporated by reference in the registration statement of which this prospectus is a part. This description is not complete and is subject to, and is qualified in its entirety by reference to, the indenture and the Trust Indenture Act of 1939 (the "Trust Indenture Act"). The specific terms of any series of debt securities will be described in the applicable prospectus supplement, and may differ from the general description of the terms presented below. Whenever particular defined terms of the indenture, as supplemented or amended from time to time, are referred to in this prospectus or a prospectus supplement, those defined terms are incorporated in this prospectus or such prospectus supplement by reference.

General

The indenture does not limit the aggregate principal amount of debt securities that may be issued under the indenture and provides that the debt securities may be issued from time to time in one or more series. All securities issued under the indenture will rank equally and ratably with all other securities issued under the indenture.

The debt securities will be unsecured and will rank on a parity with all of our other unsecured and unsubordinated indebtedness. The debt securities are not, by their terms, subordinate in right of payment to any of our other indebtedness.

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Because our assets consist principally of interests in the subsidiaries through which we conduct our businesses, our right to participate as an equity holder in any distribution of assets of any of our subsidiaries upon the subsidiary's liquidation or otherwise, and thus the ability of our security holders to benefit from the distribution, is junior to creditors of the subsidiary, except to the extent that any claims we may have as a creditor of the subsidiary are recognized. In addition, dividends, loans and advances to us from some of our subsidiaries are restricted by net capital requirements under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 and under rules of securities exchanges and other regulatory bodies. Furthermore, because some of our subsidiaries are partnerships in which we are a general partner, we may be liable for their obligations. We also guarantee many of the obligations of our subsidiaries. Any liability we may have for our subsidiaries' obligations could reduce our assets that are available to satisfy our direct creditors, including investors in our securities.

The prospectus supplement and any related pricing supplement will describe certain terms of the debt securities offered by that prospectus supplement, including:

the title of the debt securities;

any limit on the aggregate principal amount of the debt securities and their purchase price;

the date or dates on which the debt securities will mature;

the rate or rates per annum (or manner in which interest is to be determined) at which the debt securities will bear interest, if any, and the date from which the interest, if any, will accrue;

the dates on which interest, if any, on the debt securities will be payable and the regular record dates for these interest payment dates;

any mandatory or optional sinking fund or analogous provisions;

additional provisions, if any, for the defeasance of the debt securities;

the date, if any, after which and the price or prices at which the debt securities may, pursuant to any optional or mandatory redemption or repayment provisions, be redeemed and the other detailed terms and provisions of any optional or mandatory redemption or repayment provisions;

whether the debt securities are to be issued in whole or in part in registered form represented by one or more registered global securities and, if so, the identity of the depositary for the registered global securities;

to the extent appropriate, any applicable material United States federal income tax consequences; and

any other specific terms of the debt securities, including any additional events of default or covenants provided for with respect to the debt securities, and any terms that may be required by or advisable under applicable laws or regulations.

Principal of, premium, if any, and interest, if any, on the debt securities will be payable at the place or places designated by us and set forth in the applicable prospectus supplement. Interest, if any, on the debt securities will be paid, unless otherwise provided in the applicable prospectus supplement, by check mailed to the person in whose name the debt securities are registered at the close of business on the record dates designated in the applicable prospectus supplement at the address of the related holder appearing on the register of debt securities. The trustee will maintain at an office in the Borough of Manhattan, The City of New York, a register for the registration of transfers of debt securities, subject to any restrictions set forth in the applicable prospectus supplement relating to the debt securities.

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Unless otherwise provided in the applicable prospectus supplement or pricing supplement, the debt securities will be issued only in fully registered form without coupons and in denominations of \$1,000

or any larger amount that is an integral multiple of \$1,000. Debt securities may be presented for exchange and transfer in the manner, at the places and subject to the restrictions set forth in the indenture, the debt securities and the prospectus supplement. These services will be provided without charge, other than any tax or other governmental charge payable in connection with the exchange or transfer, but subject to the limitations provided in the indenture.

Debt securities will bear interest at a fixed rate or a floating rate. The debt securities may be issued at a price less than their stated redemption price at maturity, resulting in the debt securities being treated as issued with original issue discount for United States federal income tax purposes. Any original issue discount debt securities may currently pay no interest or interest at a rate which at the time of issuance is below market rates. Special United States federal income tax and other considerations applicable to any of these discounted notes will be described in the prospectus supplement or pricing supplement.

The indenture provides that all debt securities of any one series need not be issued at the same time and we may, from time to time, issue additional debt securities of a previously issued series without your consent and without notifying you. In addition, the indenture provides that we may issue debt securities with terms different from those of any other series of debt securities and, within a series of debt securities, certain terms (such as interest rate or manner in which interest is calculated and maturity date) may differ.

Conversion Rights

The terms, if any, on which debt securities of a series may be exchanged for or converted into shares of our common stock, preferred stock, debt securities of another series or other securities will be set forth in the prospectus supplement relating to the series. To protect our status as a REIT, a holder may not convert any debt security, and the debt security is not convertible by any holder, if as a result of the conversion any person would then be deemed to beneficially own, directly or indirectly, 9.8% or more of our common stock.

Global Debt Securities

Unless we specify otherwise in the applicable prospectus supplement, the registered debt securities of a series will be issued only in the form of one or more fully registered global securities that will be deposited with a depository or with a nominee for a depository identified in the prospectus supplement relating to the series and registered in the name of the depository or a nominee of the depository. Ownership of beneficial interests in a registered global security will be limited to persons, or participants, that have accounts with the depository for the registered global security or persons that may hold interests through participants.

Those who own beneficial interests in a global debt security will do so through participants in the depository's securities clearance system, and the rights of those indirect owners will be governed solely by the applicable procedures of the depository and its participants. We describe book-entry securities under "Legal Ownership and Book-Entry Issuance."

Covenants

Limitation on Borrowing Money

In the indenture, we have agreed not to create, assume, incur or otherwise become liable in respect of any:

(a) Senior Debt, unless the aggregate principal amount of our Senior Debt outstanding will not, at the time of such creation, assumption or incurrence and after giving effect thereto and to any

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concurrent transactions, exceed the greater of (i) 300% of Capital Base and (ii) 500% of Tangible Net Worth; and

(b) Non-Recourse Debt, unless the aggregate principal amount of our Senior Debt and Non-Recourse Debt outstanding will not, at the time of such creation, assumption or incurrence and after giving effect thereto and to any concurrent transactions, exceed 500% of Capital Base.

For the purpose of this limitation as to borrowing money, the following terms have the following meanings:

"Senior Debt" means all Debt other than Non-Recourse Debt and Subordinated Debt;

"Debt," with respect to any Person, means:

- (a) its indebtedness, secured or unsecured, for borrowed money;
- (b) Liabilities secured by any existing lien on property owned by the Person;
- (c) Capital Lease Obligations and the present value of all payments due under any arrangement for retention of title (discounted at the implicit rate if known and at 9% otherwise) if the arrangement is in substance an installment purchase or an arrangement for the retention of title for security purposes; and
- (d) guarantees of obligations of the character specified in clauses (a), (b) and (c) above to the full extent of the liability of the guarantor (discounted to present value, as provided in clause (c) above, in the case of guarantees of title retention arrangements).

"Capital Lease" means at any time any lease of Property which, in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles, would at that time be required to be capitalized on a balance sheet of the lessee;

"Capital Lease Obligation" means at any time the amount of the liability in respect of a Capital Lease which, in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles, would at that time be so required to be capitalized on a balance sheet of the lessee;

"Property" means any interest in any kind of property or asset, whether real, personal or mixed, or tangible or intangible;

"Person" means an individual, partnership, joint venture, joint-stock company, association, corporation, trust or unincorporated organization, or a government or agency or political subdivision thereof;

"Non-Recourse Debt," with respect to any Person, means any Debt secured by, and only by, property on or with respect to which the Debt is incurred where the rights and remedies of the holder of the Debt in the event of default do not extend to assets other than the property constituting security for the Debt;

"Subordinated Debt" means any of our unsecured Debt which is issued or assumed pursuant to, or evidenced by, an indenture or other instrument which contains provisions for the subordination of such Debt (to which appropriate reference shall be made in the instruments evidencing such Debt if not contained therein) to the debt securities (and, at our option, if so provided, to our Debt, either generally or as specifically designated);

"Capital Base" means, at any date, the sum of Tangible Net Worth and Subordinated Debt;

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"Tangible Net Worth" means, at any date, the net book value (after deducting related depreciation, obsolescence, amortization, valuation, and other proper reserves) of our Tangible Assets at that date, minus the amount of our Liabilities at that date;

"Tangible Assets" means all of our assets (including assets held subject to Capital Leases and other arrangements pursuant to which title to the Property has been retained by or vested in some other Person for security purposes), except: (a) deferred assets other than prepaid insurance, prepaid taxes and deposits; (b) patents, copyrights, trademarks, trade names, franchises, goodwill, experimental expense and other similar intangibles; and (c) unamortized debt discount and expense; and

"Liabilities" means at any date the items shown as liabilities on our balance sheet, except any items of deferred income, including capital gains.

Consolidation, Merger and Sale of Assets

We may not consolidate or merge with or into or transfer or lease our assets substantially as an entirety to any person unless we are the continuing corporation or the successor corporation or person to which the assets are transferred or leased is organized under the laws of the United States or any state of the United States or the District of Columbia and expressly assumes our obligations on the debt securities and under the indenture, and after giving effect to the transaction no event of default under the indenture has occurred and is continuing, and certain other conditions are met.

Additional Covenants

Any additional covenants that we agree to with respect to a series of the debt securities will be set forth in the prospectus supplement or related pricing supplement.

Events of Default

The following are events of default under the indenture with respect to the debt securities of any series:

failure to pay principal of or any premium on any debt security of the series when due;

failure to pay any interest on any debt security of the series when due, continued for 30 days;

failure to deposit any sinking fund payment when due in respect of any debt security of the series;

failure to perform any other of our covenants or warranties in the indenture (other than a covenant or warranty included in the indenture solely for the benefit of one or more series of debt securities other than that series), continued for 60 days after written notice by the trustee to us or by the holders of at least 25% in aggregate principal amount of the outstanding debt securities of the series to us and the trustee as provided in the indenture;

certain events in bankruptcy, insolvency, conservatorship, receivership or reorganization of us;

an acceleration of the date on which any of our other indebtedness evidenced by any mortgage, indenture or instrument shall be due and payable, in an aggregate principal amount exceeding \$20,000,000 and such acceleration is not rescinded or annulled within 10 days after written notice is given by the trustee to us or by the holders of at least 25% in aggregate principal amount of the outstanding debt securities of the series to us and the trustee as provided in the indenture; and

the occurrence of any other event of default provided with respect to the debt securities of that series.

If an event of default with respect to the outstanding debt securities of any series occurs and is continuing, either the trustee or the holders of at least 25% in aggregate principal amount of the outstanding debt securities of that series may declare the principal amount of all the outstanding debt

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securities of that series to be due and payable immediately. At any time after the declaration of acceleration with respect to the debt securities of any series has been made, but before a judgment or decree based on acceleration has been obtained, the holders of a majority in aggregate principal amount of the outstanding debt securities of that series may, under certain circumstances, rescind and annul the acceleration.

The indenture provides that the trustee will, within 90 days after the occurrence of a default with respect to a series of debt securities, give to the holders of the outstanding debt securities of the series notice of all uncured defaults known to it. Except in the case of default in the payment of principal, premium, if any, or interest, if any, on any debt securities of a series, the trustee shall be protected in withholding the notice if the trustee in good faith determines that the withholding of the notice is in the interest of the holders of outstanding debt securities of the series.

The indenture provides that, subject to the duty of the trustee during the continuance of an event of default to act with the required standard of care, the trustee will be under no obligation to exercise any of its rights or powers under the indenture at the request or direction of any of the holders, unless the holders shall have offered to the trustee reasonable indemnity. Subject to such provisions for the indemnification of the trustee and subject to certain other limitations, the holders of a majority in aggregate principal amount of the outstanding debt securities of any series will have the right to direct the time, method and place of conducting any proceedings for any remedy available to the trustee, or exercising any trust or power conferred on the trustee, with respect to the debt securities of that series.

We are required to furnish to the trustee annually a statement as to our performance of certain obligations under the indenture and as to any default in our performance.

Modification, Waiver and Amendment

The indenture provides that modifications and amendments may be made by us and the trustee to the indenture without the consent of any holders:

to cure any ambiguity;

to provide for our successor to assume the indenture;

to provide for a successor trustee;

to change or eliminate any provisions of the indenture with respect to all or any series of the debt securities not then outstanding;

to add to the covenants of HCP for the benefit of the holders of all or any series of debt securities;

to maintain the qualification of the indenture under the Trust Indenture Act; or

to make other changes specified in the indenture.

The indenture provides that modifications and amendments may be made by us and the trustee to the indenture with the consent of the holders of not less than 66²/₃% in aggregate principal amount of the outstanding debt securities of each series affected by the modification or amendment. However, no such modification or amendment may, without the consent of the holder of each outstanding debt security affected thereby:

change the stated maturity of the principal of, or any installment of principal of, premium, if any, or interest, if any, on any debt security;

reduce the principal amount of, premium, if any, or interest, if any, on any debt security;

reduce the amount of principal of an original issue discount debt security payable upon acceleration of the stated maturity of the debt security;

change the place or currency of payment of the principal of, premium, if any, or interest, if any, on any debt security;

impair the right to institute suit for the enforcement of any payment on or with respect to any debt security;

reduce the percentage in aggregate principal amount of the outstanding debt securities of any series, the consent of whose holders is required for modification or amendment of the indenture or for waiver of compliance with certain provisions of the indenture or for waiver of certain defaults; or

modify the provisions of the indenture providing for the modification, waiver or amendment of provisions of the indenture regarding waivers of events of default or the provisions providing that we maintain certain insurance.

The holders of a majority in aggregate principal amount of the outstanding debt securities of each series will be able, on behalf of all holders of the debt securities of that series, to waive compliance by us with certain restrictive provisions of the indenture, or any past default under the indenture with respect to the debt securities of that series, except a default in the payment of principal, premium, if any, or interest, if any, or in respect of a provision of the indenture which cannot be amended or modified without the consent of the holder of each outstanding debt security of the series affected.

Satisfaction and Discharge of Indenture

The indenture, with respect to any and all series of debt securities (except for certain specified surviving obligations including, among other things, our obligation to pay the principal of, premium, if any, or interest, if any, on any debt securities), will be discharged and cancelled upon the satisfaction of certain conditions, including the payment in full of the principal of, premium, if any, and interest, if any, on all of the debt securities of that series or the deposit with the trustee of an amount of cash sufficient for the payment or redemption, in accordance with the indenture.

Defeasance

We will be able to terminate certain of our obligations under the indenture with respect to the debt securities of any series on the terms and subject to the conditions contained in the indenture by depositing in trust with the trustee cash or U.S. government obligations (or combination thereof) sufficient to pay the principal of, premium, if any, and interest, if any, on the debt securities of the series to their maturity or redemption date in accordance with the terms of the indenture and the debt securities of the series.

Governing Law and Consent to Jurisdiction

The indenture is and the debt securities issued thereunder will be governed by and construed in accordance with the laws of the State of California.

Concerning the Trustee

The indenture contains certain limitations on the rights of the trustee should it become a creditor of us, to obtain payment of claims in certain cases, or to realize on certain property received in respect of any such claim as security or otherwise. The trustee will be permitted to engage in other transactions with us. However, if the trustee acquires any conflicting interest it must eliminate such conflict or resign or otherwise comply with the Trust Indenture Act of 1939, as amended.

The indenture provides that, in case an event of default should occur and be continuing, the trustee will be required to use the degree of care and skill of a prudent person in the conduct of his or her own affairs in the exercise of its powers.

DESCRIPTION OF WARRANTS OR OTHER RIGHTS WE MAY OFFER

Please note that in this section entitled "Description of Warrants or Other Rights We May Offer," references to "holders" mean those who own warrants or other rights registered in their own names, on the books that we or any applicable trustee or warrant or rights agent maintain for this purpose, and not those who own beneficial interests in warrants or rights registered in street name or in warrants or rights issued in book-entry form through one or more depositories. Owners of beneficial interests in warrants or rights should also read the section entitled "Legal Ownership and Book-Entry Issuance."

This section outlines some of the provisions of each warrant or rights agreement pursuant to which warrants or rights may be issued, the warrants or rights, and any warrant or rights certificates. This information may not be complete in all respects and is qualified entirely by reference to any warrant agreement or rights agreement with respect to the warrants or rights of any particular series. The specific terms of any series of warrants or rights will be described in the applicable prospectus supplement. If so described in the prospectus supplement, the terms of that series of warrants or rights may differ from the general description of terms presented below.

We may issue warrants or other rights. We may issue these securities in such amounts or in as many distinct series as we wish. This section summarizes the terms of these securities that apply generally. Most of the financial and other specific terms of any such series of securities will be described in the applicable prospectus supplement. Those terms may vary from the terms described here.

When we refer to a series of securities in this section, we mean all securities issued as part of the same series under any applicable indenture, agreement or other instrument. When we refer to the applicable prospectus supplement, we mean the prospectus supplement describing the specific terms of the security you purchase. The terms used in the applicable prospectus supplement generally will have the meanings described in this prospectus, unless otherwise specified in the applicable prospectus supplement.

Warrants

We may issue warrants, options or similar instruments for the purchase of our debt securities, preferred stock, common stock, depositary shares or units. We refer to these collectively as "warrants." Warrants may be issued independently or together with debt securities, preferred stock, common stock, depositary shares or units, and may be attached to or separate from those securities.

Rights

We may also issue rights, on terms to be determined at the time of sale, for the purchase or sale of, or whose cash value or stream of cash payments is determined by reference to, the occurrence or non-occurrence of or the performance, level or value of, one or more of the following:

securities of one or more issuers, including our common or preferred stock or other securities described in this prospectus or debt or equity securities of third parties;

one or more currencies;

one or more commodities;

any other financial, economic or other measure or instrument, including the occurrence or non-occurrence of any event or circumstance; and

one or more indices or baskets of the items described above.

We refer to each property described above as a "right property."

We may satisfy our obligations, if any, and the holder of a right may satisfy its obligations, if any, with respect to any rights by delivering, among other things:

the right property;

the cash value of the right property; or

the cash value of the rights determined by reference to the performance, level or value of the right.

The applicable prospectus supplement will describe what we may deliver to satisfy our obligations, if any, and what the holder of a right may deliver to satisfy its obligations, if any, with respect to any rights.

Agreements

Each series of warrants or rights may be evidenced by certificates and may be issued under a separate indenture, agreement or other instrument to be entered into between us and a bank that we select as agent with respect to such series. The warrant or rights agent will act solely as our agent in connection with the warrant or rights agreement or any warrant or rights certificates and will not assume any obligation or relationship of agency or trust for or with any warrant or rights holders. Copies of the forms of agreements and the forms of certificates representing the warrants or rights will be filed with the SEC near the date of filing of the applicable prospectus supplement with the SEC. Because the following is a summary of certain provisions of the forms of agreements and certificates, it does not contain all information that may be important to you. You should read all the provisions of the agreements and the certificates once they are available. Warrants or rights in book-entry form will be represented by a global security registered in the name of a depositary, which will be the holder of all the securities represented by the global security. Those who own beneficial interests in a global security will do so through participants in the depositary's system, and the rights of these indirect owners will be governed solely by the applicable procedures of the depositary and its participants. We describe book-entry securities under "Legal Ownership and Book-Entry Issuance."

General Terms of Warrants or Rights

The prospectus supplement relating to a series of warrants or rights will identify the name and address of the warrant or rights agent, if any. The prospectus supplement will describe the terms of the series of warrants or rights in respect of which this prospectus is being delivered, including:

the offering price;

the currency for which the warrants or rights may be purchased;

the designation and terms of any securities with which the warrants or rights are issued and in that event the number of warrants or rights issued with each security or each principal amount of security;

the date, if any, on which the warrants or rights and any related securities will be separately transferable;

whether the warrants or rights are to be sold separately or with other securities, as part of units or otherwise;

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any securities exchange or quotation system on which the warrants or rights or any securities deliverable upon exercise of such securities may be listed;

whether the warrants or rights will be issued in fully registered form or bearer form, in global or non-global form or in any combination of these forms;

the dates on which the right to exercise the warrants will commence and expire;

material United States federal income tax consequences of holding or exercising these securities; and

any other terms of the warrants or rights.

Warrant or rights certificates may be exchanged for new certificates of different denominations and may be presented for transfer of registration and, if exercisable for other securities or other property, may be exercised at the warrant or rights agent's corporate trust office or any other office indicated in the prospectus supplement. If the warrants or rights are not separately transferable from any securities with which they were issued, an exchange may take place only if the certificates representing the related securities are also exchanged. Prior to exercise of any warrant or right exercisable for other securities or other property, warrant or rights holders will not have any rights as holders of the underlying securities, including the right to receive any principal, premium, interest, dividends, or payments upon our liquidation, dissolution or winding up or to exercise any voting rights.

Exercise of Warrants or Rights

If any warrant or right is exercisable for other securities or other property, the following provisions will apply. Each such warrant or right may be exercised at any time up to any expiration date and time mentioned in the prospectus supplement relating to those warrants or rights as may otherwise be stated in the prospectus supplement. After the close of business on any applicable expiration date, unexercised warrants or rights will become void.

Warrants or rights may be exercised by delivery of the certificate representing the securities to be exercised, or in the case of global securities, as described below under "Legal Ownership and Book-Entry Issuance," by delivery of an exercise notice for those warrants or rights, together with certain information, and payment to any warrant or rights agent in immediately available funds, as provided in the prospectus supplement, of the required purchase amount, if any. Upon receipt of payment and the properly executed certificate or exercise notice at the office indicated in the prospectus supplement, we will, within the time period in the relevant agreement, issue and deliver the securities or other property purchasable upon such exercise. If fewer than all of the warrants or rights represented by such certificates are exercised, a new certificate will be issued for the remaining amount of warrants or rights. The warrant or rights holder will be required to pay any tax or other governmental charge that may be imposed in connection with any transfer involved in the issuance of the underlying securities or property.

If mentioned in the prospectus supplement, securities may be surrendered as all or part of the exercise price for warrants or rights.

Preferred Stock, Depositary Shares and Common Stock Warrant Adjustment

In the case of warrants or rights to purchase preferred stock, common stock or depositary shares the exercise price payable and the number of shares of common stock purchasable upon warrant exercise may be adjusted in certain events. The terms and conditions on which adjustments may be made will be set forth in the warrant or rights certificate and the applicable prospectus supplement. Such description will include information about:

the provisions for adjusting the exercise price of and/or the number of shares of preferred stock, depositary shares or common stock covered by such warrants or rights;

the events requiring such adjustment;

the events upon which we may, in lieu of making such adjustment, make proper provisions so that the warrant or rights holder, upon exercise, would be treated as if such holder had exercised such warrant or right prior to the occurrence of such events; and

the provisions affecting exercise if certain events affecting the preferred stock, depositary shares or common stock occur.

The prospectus supplement will describe which, if any, of these provisions shall apply to a particular series of warrants or rights. Unless otherwise specified in the applicable prospectus supplement, no adjustment in the number of shares purchasable upon warrant or right exercise will be required until cumulative adjustments require an adjustment of at least 1% of such number and no fractional shares will be issued upon warrant or right exercise, but we will pay the cash value of any fractional shares otherwise issuable.

Consolidation, Merger and Sale of Assets

Any agreement with respect to warrants or rights will provide that we are generally permitted to merge or consolidate with another corporation or other entity. Any such agreement will also provide that we are permitted to sell our assets substantially as an entirety to another corporation or other entity. With regard to any series of securities, however, we may not take any of these actions unless all of the following conditions are met:

if we are not the successor entity, the person formed by the consolidation or into or with which we merge or the person to which our properties and assets are conveyed, transferred or leased must be an entity organized and existing under the laws of the United States, any state or the District of Columbia and must expressly assume the performance of our covenants under any relevant indenture, agreement or other instrument; and

we or that successor corporation must not, after giving effect to the transaction, be in default under that agreement.

Enforcement by Holders of Warrants or Rights

Any warrant or rights agent for any series of warrants or rights will act solely as our agent under the relevant agreement and will not assume any obligation or relationship of agency or trust for any warrant or rights holder.

A single bank or trust company may act as agent for more than one issue of securities. Any such agent will have no duty or responsibility in case we default in performing our obligations under the relevant agreement or warrant or right, including any duty or responsibility to initiate any legal proceedings or to make any demand upon us. Any warrant or rights holder may, without the agent's consent or consent of any other securityholder, enforce by appropriate legal action its right to exercise any warrant or right exercisable for any property.

Replacement of Certificates

We will replace any destroyed, lost, stolen or mutilated warrant or rights certificate upon delivery to us and any applicable agent of satisfactory evidence of the ownership of that certificate and of its destruction, loss, theft or mutilation, and (in the case of mutilation) surrender of that certificate to us or any applicable agent, unless we have, or the agent has, received notice that the certificate has been acquired by a bona fide purchaser. That warrant or rights holder will also be required to provide indemnity satisfactory to us and the relevant warrant or rights agent before a replacement certificate will be issued.

Title

HCP, any warrant or rights agents for any series of warrants or rights and any of their agents may treat the registered holder of any certificate as the absolute owner of the warrants or rights evidenced by that certificate for any purpose and as the person entitled to exercise the rights attaching to such warrants or rights so requested, despite any notice to the contrary. See "Legal Ownership and Book-Entry Issuance."

DESCRIPTION OF STOCK PURCHASE CONTRACTS WE MAY OFFER

Please note that in this section entitled "Description of Stock Purchase Contracts We May Offer," references to "holders" mean those who own stock purchase contracts registered in their own names, on the books that we or our agent maintain for this purpose, and not those who own beneficial interests in stock purchase contracts registered in street name or in stock purchase contracts issued in book-entry form through one or more depositaries. Owners of beneficial interests in the stock purchase contracts should read the section below entitled "Legal Ownership and Book-Entry Issuance."

This section outlines some of the provisions of the stock purchase contracts, the stock purchase contract agreement and the pledge agreement. This information is not complete in all respects and is qualified entirely by reference to the stock purchase contract agreement and pledge agreement with respect to the stock purchase contracts of any particular series. The specific terms of any series of stock purchase contracts will be described in the applicable prospectus supplement. If so described in a prospectus supplement, the specific terms of any series of stock purchase contracts may differ from the general description of terms presented below.

Unless otherwise specified in the applicable prospectus supplement, we may issue stock purchase contracts, including contracts obligating holders to purchase from us and us to sell to the holders, a specified number of shares of common stock, preferred stock, depositary shares or other security or property at a future date or dates. Alternatively, the stock purchase contracts may obligate us to purchase from holders, and obligate holders to sell to us, a specified or varying number of shares of common stock, preferred stock, depositary shares or other security or property. The consideration per share of common stock or preferred stock or per depositary share or other security or property may be fixed at the time the stock purchase contracts are issued or may be determined by a specific reference to a formula set forth in the stock purchase contracts. The stock purchase contracts may provide for settlement by delivery by or on behalf of HCP of shares of the underlying security or property or, they may provide for settlement by reference or linkage to the value, performance or trading price of the underlying security or property. The stock purchase contracts may be issued separately or as part of stock purchase units consisting of a stock purchase contract and debt securities, preferred stock or debt obligations of third parties, including U.S. treasury securities, other stock purchase contracts or common stock, or other securities or property, securing the holders' obligations to purchase or sell, as the case may be, the common stock or the preferred stock under the stock purchase contracts. The stock purchase contracts may require us to make periodic payments to the holders of the stock purchase units or vice versa, and such payments may be unsecured or prefunded on some basis and may be paid on a current or on a deferred basis. The stock purchase contracts may require holders to secure their obligations thereunder in a specified manner and may provide for the prepayment of all or part of the consideration payable by holders in connection with the purchase of the underlying security or other property pursuant to the stock purchase contracts.

The securities related to the stock purchase contracts may be pledged to a collateral agent for HCP's benefit pursuant to a pledge agreement to secure the obligations of holders of stock purchase contracts to purchase the underlying security or property under the related stock purchase contracts. The rights of holders of stock purchase contracts to the related pledged securities will be subject to HCP's security interest therein created by the pledge agreement. No holder of stock purchase contracts

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will be permitted to withdraw the pledged securities related to such stock purchase contracts from the pledge arrangement except upon the termination or early settlement of the related stock purchase contracts or in the event other securities, cash or property is made subject to the pledge agreement in lieu of the pledged securities, if permitted by the pledge agreement, or as otherwise provided in the pledge agreement. Subject to such security interest and the terms of the stock purchase contract agreement and the pledge agreement, each holder of a stock purchase contract will retain full beneficial ownership of the related pledged securities.

Except as described in the applicable prospectus supplement, the collateral agent will, upon receipt of distributions on the pledged securities, distribute such payments to HCP or the stock purchase contract agent, as provided in the pledge agreement. The purchase agent will in turn distribute payments it receives as provided in the stock purchase contract agreement.

DESCRIPTION OF UNITS WE MAY OFFER

Please note that in this section entitled "Description of Units We May Offer," references to "holders" mean those who own units registered in their own names, on the books that we or our agent maintain for this purpose, and not those who own beneficial interests in units registered in street name or in units issued in book-entry form through one or more depositaries. Owners of beneficial interests in the units should read the section below entitled "Legal Ownership and Book-Entry Issuance."

This section outlines some of the provisions of the units and the unit agreements. This information may not be complete in all respects and is qualified entirely by reference to the unit agreement with respect to the units of any particular series. The specific terms of any series of units will be described in the applicable prospectus supplement. If so described in a particular supplement, the specific terms of any series of units may differ from the general description of terms presented below.

We may issue units comprised of two or more debt securities, shares of common stock, shares of preferred stock, stock purchase contracts, warrants, rights and other securities in any combination. Each unit will be issued so that the holder of the unit is also the holder of each security included in the unit. Thus, the holder of a unit will have the rights and obligations of a holder of each included security. The unit agreement under which a unit is issued may provide that the securities included in the unit may not be held or transferred separately, at any time or at any time before a specified date.

The applicable prospectus supplement may describe:

the designation and terms of the units and of the securities comprising the units, including whether and under what circumstances those securities may be held or transferred separately;

any provisions of the governing unit agreement that differ from those described below;

the price or prices at which such units will be issued;

information with respect to book-entry procedures, if any;

the applicable United States federal income tax considerations relating to the units;

any provisions for the issuance, payment, settlement, transfer or exchange of the units or of the securities comprising the units; and

any other terms of the units and of the securities comprising the units.

The provisions described in this section, as well as those described under "Description of the Debt Securities We May Offer," "Description of Warrants or Other Rights We May Offer," "Description of Stock Purchase Contracts We May Offer," "Description of Capital Stock We May Offer Common Stock" and "Description of Capital Stock We May Offer Preferred Stock" will apply to the securities included in each unit, to the extent relevant.

Issuance in Series

We may issue units in such amounts and in as many distinct series as we wish. This section summarizes terms of the units that apply generally to all series. Most of the financial and other specific terms of your series will be described in the applicable prospectus supplement.

Unit Agreements

We will issue the units under one or more unit agreements to be entered into between us and a bank or other financial institution, as unit agent. We may add, replace or terminate unit agents from time to time. We will identify the unit agreement under which each series of units will be issued and the unit agent under that agreement in the applicable prospectus supplement.

The following provisions will generally apply to all unit agreements unless otherwise stated in the applicable prospectus supplement.

Enforcement of Rights

The unit agent under a unit agreement will act solely as our agent in connection with the units issued under that agreement. The unit agent will not assume any obligation or relationship of agency or trust for or with any holders of those units or of the securities comprising those units. The unit agent will not be obligated to take any action on behalf of those holders to enforce or protect their rights under the units or the included securities.

Except as indicated in the next paragraph, a holder of a unit may, without the consent of the unit agent or any other holder, enforce its rights as holder under any security included in the unit, in accordance with the terms of that security and the indenture, warrant agreement, rights agreement or other instrument under which that security is issued. Those terms are described elsewhere in this prospectus under the sections relating to debt securities, warrants, stock purchase contracts, common stock and preferred stock, as relevant.

Notwithstanding the foregoing, a unit agreement may limit or otherwise affect the ability of a holder of units issued under that agreement to enforce its rights, including any right to bring a legal action, with respect to those units or any securities, other than debt securities, that are included in those units. Limitations of this kind will be described in the applicable prospectus supplement.

Unit Agreements Will Not Be Qualified Under Trust Indenture Act

No unit agreement will be qualified as an indenture, and no unit agent will be required to qualify as a trustee, under the Trust Indenture Act. Therefore, holders of units issued under unit agreements will not have the protections of the Trust Indenture Act with respect to their units.

Mergers and Similar Transactions Permitted; No Restrictive Covenants or Events of Default

The unit agreements will not restrict our ability to merge or consolidate with, or sell our assets to, another corporation or other entity or to engage in any other transactions. If at any time we merge or consolidate with, or sell our assets substantially as an entirety to, another corporation or other entity, the successor entity will succeed to and assume our obligations under the unit agreements. We will then be relieved of any further obligation under these agreements.

The unit agreements will not include any restrictions on our ability to put liens on our assets, including our interests in our subsidiaries, nor will they restrict our ability to sell our assets. The unit agreements also will not provide for any events of default or remedies upon the occurrence of any events of default.

Governing Law

The unit agreements and the units will be governed by New York law.

Form, Exchange and Transfer

We will issue each unit in global i.e., book-entry form only. Units in book-entry form will be represented by a global security registered in the name of a depository, which will be the holder of all the units represented by the global security. Those who own beneficial interests in a unit will do so through participants in the depository's system, and the rights of these indirect owners will be governed solely by the applicable procedures of the depository and its participants. We describe book-entry securities below under "Legal Ownership and Book-Entry Issuance."

Each unit and all securities comprising the unit will be issued in the same form.

If we issue any units in registered, non-global form, the following will apply to them.

The units will be issued in the denominations stated in the applicable prospectus supplement. Holders may exchange their units for units of smaller denominations or combined into fewer units of larger denominations, as long as the total amount is not changed.

Holders may exchange or transfer their units at the office of the unit agent. Holders may also replace lost, stolen, destroyed or mutilated units at that office. We may appoint another entity to perform these functions or perform them ourselves.

Holders will not be required to pay a service charge to transfer or exchange their units, but they may be required to pay for any tax or other governmental charge associated with the transfer or exchange. The transfer or exchange, and any replacement, will be made only if our transfer agent is satisfied with the holder's proof of legal ownership. The transfer agent may also require an indemnity before replacing any units.

If we have the right to redeem, accelerate or settle any units before their maturity, and we exercise our right as to less than all those units or other securities, we may block the exchange or transfer of those units during the period beginning 15 days before the day we mail the notice of exercise and ending on the day of that mailing, in order to freeze the list of holders to prepare the mailing. We may also refuse to register transfers of or exchange any unit selected for early settlement, except that we will continue to permit transfers and exchanges of the unsettled portion of any unit being partially settled. We may also block the transfer or exchange of any unit in this manner if the unit includes securities that are or may be selected for early settlement.

Only the depository will be entitled to transfer or exchange a unit in global form, since it will be the sole holder of the unit.

Payments and Notices

In making payments and giving notices with respect to our units, we will follow the procedures we plan to use with respect to our debt securities, where applicable. We describe those procedures above under "Description of the Debt Securities We May Offer General" and "Description of the Debt Securities We May Offer Global Debt Securities."

LEGAL OWNERSHIP AND BOOK-ENTRY ISSUANCE

In this section, we describe special considerations that will apply to registered securities issued in global i.e., book-entry form. First, we describe the difference between legal ownership and indirect ownership of registered securities. Then, we describe special provisions that apply to global securities.

Who is the Legal Owner of a Registered Security?

Each security in registered form will be represented either by a certificate issued in definitive form to a particular investor or by one or more global securities representing the entire issuance of securities. We refer to those who have securities registered in their own names, on the books that we or the trustee, warrant agent or other agent maintain for this purpose, as the "holders" of those securities. These persons are the legal holders of the securities. We refer to those who, indirectly through others, own beneficial interests in securities that are not registered in their own names as indirect owners of those securities. As we discuss below, indirect owners are not legal holders, and investors (i.e., persons or institutions purchasing securities in the offering to which a prospectus supplement relates) in securities issued in book-entry form or in street name will be indirect owners.

Book-Entry Owners

We will issue each security in book-entry form only, unless we specify otherwise in the applicable prospectus supplement. This means securities will be represented by one or more global securities registered in the name of a financial institution that holds them as depositary on behalf of other financial institutions that participate in the depositary's book-entry system. These participating institutions, in turn, hold beneficial interests in the securities on behalf of themselves or their customers.

Under the indenture with respect to our debt securities, only the person in whose name a security is registered is recognized as the holder of that security. Consequently, for securities issued in global form, we will recognize only the depositary as the holder of the securities and we will make all payments on the securities, including deliveries of any property other than cash, to the depositary. The depositary passes along the payments it receives to its participants, which in turn pass the payments along to their customers who are the beneficial owners. The depositary and its participants do so under agreements they have made with one another or with their customers; they are not obligated to do so under the terms of the securities.

As a result, investors will not own securities directly. Instead, they will own beneficial interests in a global security, through a bank, broker or other financial institution that participates in the depositary's book-entry system or holds an interest through a participant. As long as the securities are issued in global form, investors will be indirect owners, and not holders, of the securities.

Street Name Owners

In the future we may terminate a global security or issue securities initially in non-global form. In these cases, investors may choose to hold their securities in their own names or in street name. Securities held by an investor in street name would be registered in the name of a bank, broker or other financial institution that the investor chooses, and the investor would hold only a beneficial interest in those securities through an account he or she maintains at that institution.

For securities held in street name, we will recognize only the intermediary banks, brokers and other financial institutions in whose names the securities are registered as the holders of those securities and we will make all payments on those securities, including deliveries of any property other than cash, to them. These institutions pass along the payments they receive to their customers who are the beneficial owners, but only because they agree to do so in their customer agreements or because

they are legally required to do so. Investors who hold securities in street name will be indirect owners, not holders, of those securities.

Legal Holders

Our obligations as well as the obligations of any trustee under any indenture and the obligations, if any, of any warrant agents and unit agents and any other third parties employed by us, the trustee or any of those agents, run only to the holders of the securities. We do not have obligations to investors who hold beneficial interests in global securities, in street name or by any other indirect means. This will be the case whether an investor chooses to be an indirect holder of a security or has no choice because we are issuing the securities only in global form.

For example, once we make a payment or give a notice to the holder, we have no further responsibility for that payment or notice even if that holder is required, under agreements with depositary participants or customers or by law, to pass it along to the indirect owners but does not do so. Similarly, if we want to obtain the approval of the holders for any purpose e.g., to amend an indenture for a series of debt securities or warrants or the warrant agreement for a series of warrants or to relieve us of the consequences of a default or of our obligation to comply with a particular provision of an indenture we would seek the approval only from the holders, and not the indirect owners, of the relevant securities. Whether and how the holders contact the indirect owners is up to the holders.

When we refer to "you" in this prospectus, we mean those who invest in the securities being offered by this prospectus, whether they are the holders or only indirect owners of those securities. When we refer to "your securities" in this prospectus, we mean the securities in which you will hold a direct or indirect interest.

Special Considerations for Indirect Owners

If you hold securities through a bank, broker or other financial institution, either in book-entry form or in street name, you should check with your own institution to find out:

how it handles securities payments and notices;

whether it imposes fees or charges;

whether and how you can instruct it to exercise any rights to purchase or sell warrant property under a warrant or stock purchase contract or to exchange or convert a security for or into other property;

how it would handle a request for the holders' consent, if ever required;

whether and how you can instruct it to send you securities registered in your own name so you can be a holder, if that is permitted in the future;

how it would exercise rights under the securities if there were a default or other event triggering the need for holders to act to protect their interests; and

if the securities are in book-entry form, how the depositary's rules and procedures will affect these matters.

What is a Global Security?

We will issue each security in book-entry form only, unless we specify otherwise in the applicable prospectus supplement. Each security issued in book-entry form will be represented by a global security that we deposit with and register in the name of one or more financial institutions or their nominees,

which we select. A financial institution that we select for any security for this purpose is called the "depository" for that security. A security will usually have only one depository but it may have more.

Each series of securities will have one or more of the following as the depositaries:

The Depository Trust Company, New York, New York, which is known as DTC;

a financial institution holding the securities on behalf of Euroclear;

a financial institution holding the securities on behalf of Clearstream; and

any other clearing system or financial institution named in the applicable prospectus supplement.

The depositaries named above may also be participants in one another's systems. Thus, for example, if DTC is the depository for a global security, investors may hold beneficial interests in that security through Euroclear or Clearstream, as DTC participants. The depository or depositaries for your securities will be named in the applicable prospectus supplement; if none is named, the depository will be DTC.

A global security may represent one or any other number of individual securities. Generally, all securities represented by the same global security will have the same terms. We may, however, issue a global security that represents multiple securities of the same kind, such as debt securities, that have different terms and are issued at different times. We call this kind of global security a master global security. Your prospectus supplement will not indicate whether your securities are represented by a master global security.

A global security may not be transferred to or registered in the name of anyone other than the depository or its nominee, unless special termination situations arise. We describe those situations below under "Holder's Option to Obtain a Non-Global Security; Special Situations When a Global Security Will Be Terminated." As a result of these arrangements, the depository, or its nominee, will be the sole registered owner and holder of all securities represented by a global security, and investors will be permitted to own only beneficial interests in a global security. Beneficial interests must be held by means of an account with a broker, bank or other financial institution that in turn has an account with the depository or with another institution that does. Thus, an investor whose security is represented by a global security will not be a holder of the security, but only an indirect owner of a beneficial interest in the global security.

If the prospectus supplement for a particular security indicates that the security will be issued in global form only, then the security will be represented by a global security at all times unless and until the global security is terminated. We describe the situations in which this can occur below under "Holder's Option to Obtain a Non-Global Security; Special Situations When a Global Security Will Be Terminated." If termination occurs, we may issue the securities through another book-entry clearing system or decide that the securities may no longer be held through any book-entry clearing system.

Special Considerations for Global Securities

As an indirect owner, an investor's rights relating to a global security will be governed by the account rules of the depository, those of the investor's financial institution (e.g., Euroclear and Clearstream, if DTC is the depository), as well as general laws relating to securities transfers. We do not recognize this type of investor or any intermediary as a holder of securities and instead deal only with the depository that holds the global security.

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If securities are issued only in the form of a global security, an investor should be aware of the following:

an investor cannot cause the securities to be registered in his or her own name, and cannot obtain non-global certificates for his or her interest in the securities, except in the special situations we describe below;

an investor will be an indirect holder and must look to his or her own bank or broker for payments on the securities and protection of his or her legal rights relating to the securities, as we describe under " Who is the Legal Owner of a Registered Security Legal Holders" above;

an investor may not be able to sell interests in the securities to some insurance companies and other institutions that are required by law to own their securities in non-book-entry form;

an investor may not be able to pledge his or her interest in a global security in circumstances where certificates representing the securities must be delivered to the lender or other beneficiary of the pledge in order for the pledge to be effective;

the depositary's policies and those of any participant in the depositary's system or other intermediary (e.g., Euroclear or Clearstream, if DTC is the depositary) through which that institution holds security interests, which may change from time to time, will govern payments, transfers, exchanges and other matters relating to an investor's interest in a global security. We and the trustee will have no responsibility for any aspect of the depositary's policies or actions or records of ownership interests in a global security. We and the trustee also do not supervise the depositary in any way;

the depositary will require that those who purchase and sell interests in a global security within its book-entry system use immediately available funds and your broker or bank may require you to do so as well; and

financial institutions that participate in the depositary's book-entry system and through which an investor holds its interest in the global securities (including Euroclear and Clearstream, if you hold through them when the depositary is DTC) may also have their own policies affecting payments, notices and other matters relating to the securities. For example, if you hold an interest in a global security through Euroclear or Clearstream, when DTC is the depositary, Euroclear or Clearstream, as applicable, will require those who purchase and sell interests in that security through them to use immediately available funds and comply with other policies and procedures, including deadlines for giving instructions as to transactions that are to be effected on a particular day. There may be more than one financial intermediary in the chain of ownership for an investor. We do not monitor and are not responsible for the policies or actions of any of those intermediaries.

Holder's Option to Obtain a Non-Global Security; Special Situations When a Global Security Will Be Terminated

If we issue any series of securities in book-entry form but we choose to give the beneficial owners of that series the right to obtain non-global securities, any beneficial owner entitled to obtain non-global securities may do so by following the applicable procedures of the depositary, any transfer agent or registrar for that series and that owner's bank, broker or other financial institution through which that owner holds its beneficial interest in the securities.

In addition, in a few special situations described below, a global security will be terminated and interests in it will be exchanged for certificates in non-global form representing the securities it represented. After that exchange, the choice of whether to hold the securities directly or in street name will be up to the investor. Investors must consult their own banks or brokers to find out how to have

their interests in a global security transferred on termination to their own names, so that they will be holders. We have described the rights of holders and street name investors above under " Who is the Legal Owner of a Registered Security."

The special situations for termination of a global security are as follows:

DTC notifies us that it is unwilling or unable to continue acting as the depository for that global security, or DTC has ceased to be a clearing agency registered under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, and in either case we fail to appoint a successor depository within 60 days;

we order in our sole discretion that such global security will be transferable, registrable and exchangeable; or

in the case of a global security representing debt securities or warrants issued under an indenture, an event of default has occurred with regard to that global security and is continuing.

If a global security is terminated, only the depository, and neither we, the trustee for any debt security, the warrant agent for any warrants or the unit agent for any units, is responsible for deciding the names of the institutions in whose names the securities represented by the global security will be registered and, therefore, who will be the holders of those securities.

Considerations Relating to Euroclear and Clearstream

Euroclear and Clearstream are securities clearance systems in Europe. Both systems clear and settle securities transactions between their participants through electronic, book-entry delivery of securities against payment.

As long as any global security is held by Euroclear or Clearstream, you may hold an interest in the global security only through an organization that participates, directly or indirectly, in Euroclear or Clearstream. If you are a participant in either of those systems, you may hold your interest directly in that system. If you are not a participant, you may hold your interest indirectly through organizations that are participants in that system.

If Euroclear or Clearstream is the depository for a global security and there is no depository in the United States, you will not be able to hold interests in that global security through any securities clearance system in the United States.

If Euroclear or Clearstream is the depository for a global security, or if DTC is the depository for a global security and Euroclear and Clearstream hold interests in the global security as participants in DTC, then Euroclear and Clearstream will hold interests in the global security on behalf of the participants in their systems.

Payments, deliveries, transfers, exchanges, notices and other matters relating to the securities made through Euroclear or Clearstream must comply with the rules and procedures of those systems. Those systems could change their rules and procedures at any time. We have no control over those systems or their participants and we take no responsibility for their activities. Transactions between participants in Euroclear or Clearstream on one hand, and participants in DTC, on the other hand, when DTC is the depository, would also be subject to DTC's rules and procedures.

Special Timing Considerations for Transactions in Euroclear and Clearstream

Investors will be able to make and receive through Euroclear and Clearstream payments, notices and other communications and deliveries involving any securities held through those systems only on days when those systems are open for business. Those systems may not be open for business on days when banks, brokers and other institutions are open for business in the United States.

In addition, because of time-zone differences, U.S. investors who hold their interests in the securities through these systems, and wish to transfer their interests, or to receive or make a payment or delivery with respect to their interests, on a particular day may find that the transaction will not be effected until the next business day in Luxembourg or Brussels, as applicable. Investors who hold their interests through both DTC and Euroclear or Clearstream may need to make special arrangements to finance any purchases or sales of their interests between the U.S. and European clearing systems, and those transactions may settle later than would be the case for transactions within one clearing system.

CERTAIN PROVISIONS OF MARYLAND LAW AND HCP'S CHARTER AND BYLAWS

The following paragraphs summarize certain provisions of Maryland law and of our charter and bylaws. This is a summary, and does not completely describe Maryland law, our charter or our bylaws. For a complete description, we refer you to the MGCL, our charter and our bylaws. We have incorporated by reference our charter and bylaws as exhibits to the registration statement of which this prospectus is a part.

Election of Directors

Our bylaws provide that our board of directors may establish, increase or decrease the number of directors, provided that the number thereof shall never be less than three nor more than eleven. At each annual meeting of stockholders, the election of directors shall be by a plurality of the votes cast. Holders of common stock have no right to cumulative voting for the election of directors. Consequently, at each annual meeting of stockholders, the holders of a majority of the outstanding shares of our common stock can elect all of our directors. A vacancy resulting from an increase in the number of directors may be filled by a majority vote of the entire board of directors or by the affirmative vote of the holders of a majority of our shares then entitled to vote at an election of directors. Other vacancies may be filled by the vote of a majority of the remaining directors.

Removal of Directors

Our charter provides that a director of ours may be removed by the affirmative vote of the holders of two-thirds of the outstanding shares of our voting stock or by a unanimous vote of all other directors. Our stockholders may elect a successor to fill any vacancy which results from the removal of a director.

Business Combinations

Under Maryland law, "business combinations" between a Maryland corporation and an interested stockholder or an affiliate of an interested stockholder are prohibited for five years after the most recent date on which the interested stockholder becomes an interested stockholder. These business combinations include a merger, consolidation, share exchange, or, in circumstances specified in the statute, an asset transfer or issuance or reclassification of equity securities. An interested stockholder is defined as:

any person who beneficially owns ten percent or more of the voting power of the corporation's shares; or

an affiliate of the corporation who, at any time within the two-year period prior to the date in question, was the beneficial owner of ten percent or more of the voting power of the then outstanding voting stock of the corporation.

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After the five-year prohibition, any business combination between the Maryland corporation and an interested stockholder generally must be recommended by the board of directors of the corporation and approved by the affirmative vote of at least:

80% of the votes entitled to be cast by holders of outstanding shares of voting stock of the corporation; and

two-thirds of the votes entitled to be cast by holders of voting stock of the corporation other than shares held by the interested stockholder with whom or with whose affiliate the business combination is to be effected or which are held by an affiliate or associate of the interested stockholder.

These super-majority vote requirements do not apply if the corporation's common stockholders receive a minimum price, as defined under Maryland law, for their shares in the form of cash or other consideration in the same form as previously paid by the interested stockholder for its shares. None of these provisions of the Maryland law will apply, however, to business combinations that are approved or exempted by the board of directors of the corporation prior to the time that the interested stockholder becomes an interested stockholder.

In addition to the restrictions on business combinations provided under Maryland law, our charter also contains restrictions on business combinations. See "Description of Capital Stock We May Offer Business Combination Provisions."

Control Share Acquisitions

Maryland law provides that "control shares" of a Maryland corporation acquired in a "control share acquisition" have no voting rights except to the extent approved by a vote of two-thirds of the votes entitled to be cast on the matter. Shares of stock owned by the acquiror, by officers or by directors who are employees of the corporation are excluded from shares entitled to vote on the matter. "Control shares" are voting shares of stock which, if aggregated with all other shares of stock owned by the acquiror or shares of stock for which the acquiror is able to exercise or direct the exercise of voting power except solely by virtue of a revocable proxy, would entitle the acquiror to exercise voting power in electing directors within one of the following ranges of voting power:

one-tenth or more but less than one-third;

one-third or more but less than a majority; or

a majority or more of all voting power.

Control shares do not include shares the acquiring person is then entitled to vote as a result of having previously obtained stockholder approval. Except as otherwise specified in the statute, a "control share acquisition" means the acquisition of control shares.

Once a person who has made or proposes to make a control share acquisition has undertaken to pay expenses and satisfied other conditions, the person may compel the board of directors to call a special meeting of stockholders to be held within 50 days of demand to consider the voting rights of the shares. If no request for a meeting is made, the corporation may itself present the question at any stockholders meeting.

If voting rights are not approved at the meeting or if the acquiring person does not deliver an acquiring person statement as required by the statute, then the corporation may be able to redeem any or all of the control shares for fair value, except for control shares for which voting rights previously have been approved. The right of the corporation to redeem control shares is subject to certain conditions and limitations. Fair value is determined without regard to the absence of voting rights for control shares, as of the date of the last control share acquisition by the acquiror or of any meeting of

stockholders at which the voting rights of control shares are considered and not approved. If voting rights for control shares are approved at a stockholders meeting and the acquiror becomes entitled to vote a majority of the shares entitled to vote, all other stockholders may exercise appraisal rights. The fair value of the shares as determined for purposes of these appraisal rights may not be less than the highest price per share paid by the acquiror in the control share acquisition. Some of the limitations and restrictions otherwise applicable to the exercise of dissenters' rights do not apply in the context of a control share acquisition.

The control share acquisition statute does not apply to shares acquired in a merger, consolidation or share exchange if the corporation is a party to the transaction or to acquisitions approved or exempted by the charter or bylaws of the corporation. Our charter and bylaws do not provide for any such exemption.

Duties of Directors with Respect to Unsolicited Takeovers

Maryland law provides protection for Maryland corporations against unsolicited takeovers by limiting, among other things, the duties of the directors in unsolicited takeover situations. The duties of directors of Maryland corporations do not require them to (a) accept, recommend or respond to any proposal by a person seeking to acquire control of the corporation, (b) make a determination under the Maryland business combination or control share acquisition statutes described above, or (c) act or fail to act solely because of the effect the act or failure to act may have on an acquisition or potential acquisition of control of the corporation or the amount or type of consideration that may be offered or paid to the stockholders in an acquisition. Moreover, under Maryland law the act of a director of a Maryland corporation relating to or affecting an acquisition or potential acquisition of control is not subject to any higher duty or greater scrutiny than is applied to any other act of a director. Maryland law also contains a statutory presumption that an act of a director of a Maryland corporation satisfies the applicable standards of conduct for directors under Maryland law.

Unsolicited Takeovers

Under Maryland law, a Maryland corporation with a class of equity securities registered under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended, and at least three independent directors may elect to be subject to certain statutory provisions relating to unsolicited takeovers which, among other things, would automatically classify the board of directors into three classes with staggered terms of three years each and vest in the board of directors the exclusive right to determine the number of directors and the exclusive right, by the affirmative vote of a majority of the remaining directors, to fill vacancies on the board of directors, even if the remaining directors do not constitute a quorum. These statutory provisions relating to unsolicited takeovers also provide that any director elected to fill a vacancy shall hold office for the remainder of the full term of the class of directors in which the vacancy occurred, rather than the next annual meeting of directors as would otherwise be the case, and until his successor is elected and qualified.

An election to be subject to any or all of the foregoing statutory provisions may be made in our charter or bylaws, or by resolution of our board of directors without stockholder approval. Any such statutory provision to which we elect to be subject will apply even if other provisions of Maryland law or our charter or bylaws provide to the contrary. Neither our charter nor our bylaws provides that we are subject to any of the foregoing statutory provisions relating to unsolicited takeovers. However, our board of directors could adopt a resolution, without stockholder approval, to elect to become subject to some or all of these statutory provisions.

If we made an election to be subject to such statutory provisions and our board of directors were divided into three classes with staggered terms of office of three years each, the classification and staggered terms of office of our directors would make it more difficult for a third party to gain control

of our board of directors since at least two annual meetings of stockholders, instead of one, generally would be required to effect a change in the majority of our board of directors.

Amendments to the Charter

Provisions of our charter on business combinations, the number of directors and certain ownership restrictions may be amended only if approved by our board of directors and by our stockholders by the affirmative vote of two-thirds of all of the votes entitled to be cast by our stockholders on the matter. Other amendments to our charter require approval by our board of directors and approval by our stockholders by the affirmative vote of a majority of all the votes entitled to be cast by our stockholders on the matter.

Amendment to the Bylaws

Provisions of our bylaws on the number of directors, in certain circumstances, and the vote required to amend the bylaws may be amended only by unanimous vote of the board of directors or by the affirmative vote of not less than 90% of all of the votes entitled to be cast by our stockholders on the matter. Other amendments to our bylaws require the affirmative vote of a majority of the entire board of directors or the affirmative vote of two-thirds of all of the votes entitled to be cast by our stockholders on the matter.

Dissolution of HCP, Inc.

Our dissolution must be approved by our board of directors by a majority vote of the entire board and by our stockholders by the affirmative vote of a majority of all the votes entitled to be cast by our stockholders on the matter.

Advance Notice of Director Nominations and New Business; Procedures of Special Meetings Requested by Stockholders

Our bylaws provide that nominations of persons for election to the board of directors and the proposal of business to be considered by stockholders at the annual or special meeting of stockholders may be made only:

pursuant to our notice of the meeting;

by or at the direction of the board of directors; or

by a stockholder who was a stockholder at the time the notice of meeting was given and is entitled to vote at the meeting and who has complied with the advance notice procedures, including the minimum time period, described in the bylaws.

Our bylaws also provide that only the business specified in our notice of meeting may be brought before a special meeting of stockholders. Our bylaws provide that our stockholders have the right to call a special meeting only upon the written request of the stockholders holding in the aggregate not less than 50% of the outstanding shares entitled to vote on the business proposed to be transacted at such meeting.

Anti-Takeover Effect of Provisions of Maryland Law and of the Charter and Bylaws

The provisions in the charter on removal of directors and business combinations, the business combinations and control share acquisition provisions of Maryland law, the advance notice provisions of our bylaws and the provisions of our bylaws relating to stockholder-requested special meetings may delay, defer or prevent a change of control or other transaction in which holders of some, or a

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majority, of the common stock might receive a premium for their common stock over the then prevailing market price or which such holders might believe to be otherwise in their best interests.

Limitation of Liability and Indemnification

Maryland law permits a Maryland corporation to include in its charter a provision limiting the liability of its directors and officers to the corporation and its stockholders for money damages. However, a Maryland corporation may not limit liability resulting from actual receipt of an improper benefit or profit in money, property or services. Also, liability resulting from active and deliberate dishonesty may not be eliminated if a final judgment establishes that the dishonesty is material to the cause of action. Our charter contains a provision which limits the liability of directors and officers for money damages to the maximum extent permitted by Maryland law. This provision does not limit our right or that of our stockholders to obtain equitable relief, such as an injunction or rescission.

Our bylaws obligate us, to the maximum extent permitted by Maryland law, to indemnify and, without requiring a preliminary determination as to the ultimate entitlement to indemnification, to pay or reimburse reasonable expenses before final disposition of a proceeding to:

any present or former director or officer who is made a party to the proceeding by reason of his service in that capacity; or

any individual who, while one of our directors or officers and at our request, serves or has served another corporation, partnership, joint venture, trust, employee benefit plan or any other enterprise as a director, officer, partner or trustee of such corporation, partnership, joint venture, trust, employee benefit plan, or other enterprise and who is made a party to the proceeding by reason of his service in that capacity.

The bylaws authorize us, with the approval of our board of directors, to provide indemnification and advancement of expenses to our agents and employees.

Unless limited by a corporation's charter, Maryland law requires a corporation to indemnify a director or officer who has been successful, on the merits or otherwise, in the defense of any proceeding to which he is made a party by reason of his service in that capacity, or in the defense of any claim, issue or matter in the proceeding. Our charter does not alter this requirement.

Maryland law permits a corporation to indemnify its present and former directors and officers, among others, against:

judgments;

penalties;

finest;

settlements; and

reasonable expenses actually incurred by them in connection with any proceeding to which they may be made a party by reason of their service in those or other capacities.

Maryland law does not permit a corporation to indemnify its present and former directors and officers if it is established that:

the act or omission of the director or officer was material to the matter giving rise to the proceeding and was committed in bad faith or was the result of active and deliberate dishonesty;

the director or officer actually received an improper personal benefit in money, property or services; or

in the case of any criminal proceeding, the director or officer had reasonable cause to believe that the act or omission was unlawful.

Under Maryland law, a Maryland corporation generally may not indemnify for an adverse judgment in a suit by or in the right of the corporation. Also, a Maryland corporation generally may not indemnify for a judgment of liability on the basis that personal benefit was improperly received. In either of these cases, a Maryland corporation may indemnify for expenses only if a court so orders.

Maryland law permits a corporation to advance reasonable expenses to a director or officer. First, however, the corporation must receive a written affirmation by the director or officer of his good faith belief that he has met the standard of conduct necessary for indemnification by the corporation. The corporation must also receive a written undertaking, either by the director or officer or on his behalf, to repay the amount paid or reimbursed by the corporation if it shall ultimately be determined that the standard of conduct was not met. The termination of any proceeding by conviction, or upon a plea of nolo contendere or its equivalent, or an entry of any order of probation prior to judgment, creates a rebuttable presumption that the director or officer did not meet the requisite standard of conduct required for indemnification to be permitted.

It is the position of the Commission that indemnification of directors and officers for liabilities arising under the Securities Act is against public policy and is unenforceable pursuant to Section 14 of the Securities Act.

MATERIAL UNITED STATES FEDERAL INCOME TAX CONSIDERATIONS

The following is a general summary of the material United States federal income tax considerations regarding our election to be taxed as a REIT and the ownership and disposition of certain of the securities offered by this prospectus. This summary does not purport to be a complete analysis of all of the potential tax considerations relating thereto. This summary is based on current law, is for general information only and is not tax advice. For purposes of this summary under the heading "Material United States Federal Income Tax Considerations," references to "HCP," "we," "our," and "us" mean only HCP, Inc., and not its subsidiaries, except as otherwise indicated.

The information in this summary is based on:

the Internal Revenue Code;

current, temporary and proposed Treasury Regulations promulgated under the Internal Revenue Code;

the legislative history of the Internal Revenue Code;

current administrative interpretations and practices of the Internal Revenue Service; and

court decisions;

in each case, as of the date of this prospectus. In addition, the administrative interpretations and practices of the Internal Revenue Service include its practices and policies as expressed in private letter rulings that are not binding on the Internal Revenue Service except with respect to the particular taxpayers who requested and received those rulings. Future legislation, Treasury Regulations, administrative interpretations and practices and/or court decisions may change or adversely affect the tax considerations described in this prospectus. Any such change could apply retroactively to transactions preceding the date of the change. We have not requested and do not intend to request a ruling from the Internal Revenue Service that we qualify as a REIT or concerning the treatment of the securities offered by this prospectus, and the statements in this prospectus are not binding on the Internal Revenue Service or any court. Thus, we can provide no assurance that the tax considerations

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contained in this summary will not be challenged by the Internal Revenue Service or will be sustained by a court if so challenged.

This summary assumes that the securities offered by this prospectus are held as "capital assets" (generally, property held for investment within the meaning of Section 1221 of the Internal Revenue Code). Your tax treatment will vary depending on the terms of the specific securities that you acquire, as well as your particular situation. Supplemental United States federal income tax considerations relevant to your ownership of the particular securities offered by this prospectus may be provided in the prospectus supplement that relates to those securities. This discussion does not purport to deal with all aspects of taxation that may be relevant to holders of our securities in light of their personal investment or tax circumstances, or to holders who receive special treatment under the United States federal income tax laws except to the extent discussed specifically herein. Holders of securities offered by this prospectus receiving special treatment include, without limitation:

banks, insurance companies or other financial institutions;

brokers or dealers in securities or commodities;

traders in securities;

expatriates and certain former citizens or long-term residents of the United States;

tax-exempt organizations;

persons who are subject to the alternative minimum tax;

persons who hold the securities offered by this prospectus as a position in a "straddle" or as part of a "hedging," "conversion" or other risk reduction transaction;

persons deemed to sell the securities offered by this prospectus under the constructive sale provisions of the Internal Revenue Code;

United States persons that have a functional currency other than the United States dollar;

except to the extent specifically discussed below, non-U.S. holders (as defined below); or

persons that are S corporations, real estate investment trusts, regulated investment companies, partnerships or other pass-through entities.

In addition, this discussion does not address any state, local or foreign tax consequences associated with the ownership of the securities offered by this prospectus or our election to be taxed as a REIT.

You are urged to consult your tax advisor regarding the specific tax consequences to you of:

the acquisition, ownership and sale or other disposition of the securities offered by this prospectus, including the United States federal, state, local, foreign and other tax consequences;

our election to be taxed as a REIT for United States federal income tax purposes; and

potential changes in applicable tax laws.

Taxation of the Company

General

We elected to be taxed as a REIT under Sections 856 through 860 of the Internal Revenue Code, commencing with our taxable year ended December 31, 1985. We believe we have been organized and have operated in a manner which allows us to qualify for taxation as a REIT under the Internal Revenue Code commencing with our taxable year ended December 31, 1985. We currently intend to continue to be organized and operate in this manner. However, qualification and taxation as a REIT

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depend upon our ability to meet the various qualification tests imposed under the Internal Revenue Code, including through actual annual operating results, asset composition, distribution levels and diversity of stock ownership. Accordingly, no assurance can be given that we have been organized and have operated, or will continue to be organized and operate, in a manner so as to qualify or remain qualified as a REIT. See " Failure to Qualify."

The sections of the Internal Revenue Code and the corresponding Treasury Regulations that relate to the qualification and taxation as a REIT are highly technical and complex. The following sets forth the material aspects of the sections of the Internal Revenue Code that govern the United States federal income tax treatment of a REIT and its stockholders. This summary is qualified in its entirety by the applicable Internal Revenue Code provisions, Treasury Regulations, and related administrative and judicial interpretations thereof. Latham & Watkins LLP has acted as our tax counsel in connection with this prospectus and our election to be taxed as a REIT.

Latham & Watkins LLP has rendered an opinion to us to the effect that, commencing with our taxable year ended December 31, 1985, we have been organized and have operated in conformity with the requirements for qualification and taxation as a REIT, and that our proposed method of operation will enable us to continue to meet the requirements for qualification and taxation as a REIT under the Internal Revenue Code. It must be emphasized that this opinion was based on various assumptions and representations as to factual matters, including representations made by us in factual certificates provided by one of our officers. In addition, this opinion was based upon our factual representations set forth in this prospectus. Moreover, our qualification and taxation as a REIT depend upon our ability to meet the various qualification tests imposed under the Internal Revenue Code which are discussed below, including through actual annual operating results, asset composition, distribution levels and diversity of stock ownership, the results of which have not been and will not be reviewed by Latham & Watkins LLP. Accordingly, no assurance can be given that our actual results of operation for any particular taxable year have satisfied or will satisfy those requirements. See " Failure to Qualify." Further, the anticipated income tax treatment described in this prospectus may be changed, perhaps retroactively, by legislative, administrative or judicial action at any time. Latham & Watkins LLP has no obligation to update its opinion subsequent to its date.

Provided we qualify for taxation as a REIT, we generally will not be required to pay United States federal corporate income taxes on our REIT taxable income that is currently distributed to our stockholders. This treatment substantially eliminates the "double taxation" that ordinarily results from investment in a C corporation. A C corporation is a corporation that is generally required to pay tax at the corporate-level. Double taxation generally means taxation that occurs once at the corporate level when income is earned and once again at the stockholder level when the income is distributed. We will be required to pay United States federal income tax, however, as follows:

We will be required to pay tax at regular corporate tax rates on any undistributed REIT taxable income, including undistributed net capital gains.

We may be required to pay the "alternative minimum tax" on our items of tax preference under some circumstances.

If we have: (a) net income from the sale or other disposition of "foreclosure property" which is held primarily for sale to customers in the ordinary course of business; or (b) other nonqualifying income from foreclosure property, we will be required to pay tax at the highest corporate rate on this income. Foreclosure property generally is defined as property we acquired through foreclosure or after a default on a loan secured by the property or a lease of the property and for which an election is in effect.

We will be required to pay a 100% tax on any net income from prohibited transactions. Prohibited transactions are, in general, sales or other taxable dispositions of property, other than

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foreclosure property, held as inventory or primarily for sale to customers in the ordinary course of business.

If we fail to satisfy the 75% gross income test or the 95% gross income test, as described below, but have otherwise maintained our qualification as a REIT because certain other requirements are met, we will be required to pay a tax equal to (a) the greater of (i) the amount by which 75% of our gross income exceeds the amount qualifying under the 75% gross income test and (ii) the amount by which 95% of our gross income (90% for our taxable years ended on or prior to December 31, 2004) exceeds the amount qualifying under the 95% gross income test, multiplied by (b) a fraction intended to reflect our profitability.

If we fail to satisfy any of the REIT asset tests (other than a de minimis failure of the 5% or 10% asset tests), as described below, due to reasonable cause and not due to willful neglect, and we nonetheless maintain our REIT qualification because of specified cure provisions, we will be required to pay a tax equal to the greater of \$50,000 or the highest corporate tax rate multiplied by the net income generated by the nonqualifying assets that caused us to fail such test.

If we fail to satisfy any provision of the Internal Revenue Code that would result in our failure to qualify as a REIT (other than a violation of the REIT gross income tests or certain violations of the asset tests described below) and the violation is due to reasonable cause and not due to willful neglect, we may retain our REIT qualification but will be required to pay a penalty of \$50,000 for each such failure.

We will be required to pay a 4% excise tax to the extent we fail to distribute during each calendar year at least the sum of (a) 85% of our REIT ordinary income for the year, (b) 95% of our REIT capital gain net income for the year, and (c) any undistributed taxable income from prior periods.

If we acquire any asset from a corporation which is or has been a C corporation in a transaction in which the basis of the asset in our hands is determined by reference to the basis of the asset in the hands of the C corporation (as we expect occurred as a result of the merger with CNL Retirement Corp. (the "Advisor") in 2006 and the acquisition of Slough Estates USA, Inc. ("SEUSA") in 2007), and we subsequently recognize gain on the disposition of the asset during the ten-year period beginning on the date on which we acquired the asset, then we will be required to pay tax at the highest regular corporate tax rate on this gain to the extent of the excess of (a) the fair market value of the asset over (b) our adjusted basis in the asset, in each case determined as of the date on which we acquired the asset. The results described in this paragraph with respect to the recognition of gain assume that certain elections specified in applicable Treasury Regulations are either made or forgone by us or by the entity from which the assets are acquired, in each case, depending upon the date such acquisition occurred.

We will be required to pay a 100% tax on any "redetermined rents," "redetermined deductions" or "excess interest." In general, redetermined rents are rents from real property that are overstated as a result of services furnished to any of our tenants by a "taxable REIT subsidiary" of ours. Redetermined deductions and excess interest generally represent amounts that are deducted by a taxable REIT subsidiary of ours for amounts paid to us that are in excess of the amounts that would have been deducted based on arm's-length negotiations.

Certain of our subsidiaries are C corporations, the earnings of which will be subject to United States federal corporate income tax.

Requirements for Qualification as a REIT

The Internal Revenue Code defines a REIT as a corporation, trust or association:

- (1) that is managed by one or more trustees or directors;
- (2) that issues transferable shares or transferable certificates to evidence its beneficial ownership;
- (3) that would be taxable as a domestic corporation but for special Internal Revenue Code provisions applicable to REITs;
- (4) that is not a financial institution or an insurance company within the meaning of certain provisions of the Internal Revenue Code;
- (5) that is beneficially owned by 100 or more persons;
- (6) not more than 50% in value of the outstanding stock of which is owned, actually or constructively, by five or fewer individuals, including certain specified entities, during the last half of each taxable year; and
- (7) that meets other tests, described below, regarding the nature of its income and assets and the amount of its distributions.

The Internal Revenue Code provides that conditions (