

Piedmont Office Realty Trust, Inc.  
Form PRE 14A  
October 02, 2007

**SCHEDULE 14A**

**(RULE 14A-101)**

**INFORMATION REQUIRED IN PROXY STATEMENT**

**SCHEDULE 14A INFORMATION**

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

**Exchange Act of 1934**

Filed by the Registrant

Filed by a Party other than the Registrant

Check the appropriate box:

Preliminary Proxy Statement

Confidential, for Use of the Commission Only (as permitted by Rule 14a-6(e)(2))

Definitive Proxy Statement

Definitive Additional Materials

Soliciting Material Pursuant to § 240.14a-11(c) or § 240.14a-12

**PIEDMONT OFFICE REALTY TRUST, INC.**

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(Name of Registrant as Specified in its Charter)

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(Name of Person(s) Filing Proxy Statement, if other than Registrant)

Payment of Filing Fee (Check the appropriate box)

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

October , 2007

Dear Investor:

Attached for your review is a notice of the 2007 Annual Meeting of Stockholders and Proxy Statement for Piedmont Office Realty Trust, Inc. (formerly Wells Real Estate Investment Trust, Inc.). As is typical in a proxy statement for an annual meeting, we are asking you to vote on several matters of importance to the REIT, including the election of our directors, all of which are described in greater detail below. In an effort to maximize stockholder value, we are requesting your permission to extend the liquidation date ( Liquidation Date ) of the REIT beyond January 30, 2008. Also, we are announcing our intent to reinstate our Share Redemption Program as soon as possible. The following sections go into more detail on all of the proposals in the proxy statement.

**Annual Proxy Proposals**

There are three proposals you are being asked to vote on in this proxy statement.

First, as in prior years, we are asking you to vote on the election of directors to the Board.

In the second proposal, you are being asked to vote on a recommendation from the Board of Directors to extend the Liquidation Date beyond the original date of January 30, 2008. Their recommendation allows the REIT to extend the date by which we must begin an orderly process of liquidation if we have not listed our common shares on a national securities exchange. The proposal is to extend the Liquidation Date to July 30, 2009, and to allow the Board of Directors, using its discretion based upon market conditions and other relevant factors, to further extend the Liquidation Date from July 30, 2009, to January 30, 2011, if deemed advisable in an effort to maximize stockholder value.

Finally, the Board has recommended a third proposal to approve an adjournment or postponement of the Annual Meeting, if necessary, to solicit additional proxies in favor of the extension of the Liquidation Date proposal described above.

Prior to making these recommendations, the Board conducted a careful and extensive review with our financial advisors, Morgan Stanley & Co. Incorporated and J.P. Morgan Securities, Inc. The reasons for the Board's decision to make the extension recommendation are described in detail in the proxy statement. The proxy statement also contains additional background regarding why the Board determined it is in the best interest of the Company and our stockholders to possibly delay the listing of our common stock or a possible sale, merger, or other strategic transaction involving the company or its assets until the debt and public equity markets have stabilized.

It is important to know that extending the Liquidation Date does not prevent the Board from listing, liquidating the portfolio, selling the Company, or from pursuing any other

Piedmont Office Realty Trust, Inc.

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liquidity option instead it provides the Board with the flexibility to conduct a liquidity event under what are expected to be more favorable market conditions. Meanwhile during this time, we intend to benefit from the improving office market fundamentals with the expectation of improving stockholder value.

**Reinstatement of Share Redemption Program & Interim Liquidity**

In an effort to accommodate interim liquidity needs of some stockholders, our Board of Directors intends to reinstate our existing share redemption program in the fourth quarter of 2007. Further, the Board of Directors will also consider amending our redemption program or adopting other liquidity programs to provide additional interim liquidity to our stockholders if the demand for redemptions exceeds our share redemption program limitations.

**Questions**

You will find much more detail about the Board's decisions and recommendations in the attached documents. We ask that you review the documents thoroughly and submit your vote as soon as possible in advance of the Annual Meeting on December 13, 2007.

If you have any questions, please call your financial advisor or call a Piedmont Investor Services Specialist at 800-557-4830, Monday through Thursday, 8:15 a.m. to 6:30 p.m., and Friday, 8:15 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. (ET). Investor Services also may be reached via e-mail at [investor.services@PiedmontREIT.com](mailto:investor.services@PiedmontREIT.com). To view our latest company regulatory filings and updates, including Form 8-K filings, please visit our Web site at [www.PiedmontREIT.com](http://www.PiedmontREIT.com).

Thank you for your support as a REIT investor. We greatly value our relationship with you and will continue to keep you informed in the days ahead regarding your investment.

Sincerely,

/s/ Donald A. Miller, CFA

Donald A. Miller, CFA

Chief Executive Officer

Piedmont Office Realty Trust, Inc.

(f/k/a Wells Real Estate Investment Trust, Inc.)

cc: Financial Representative

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**OFFICIAL NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING**

**PIEDMONT OFFICE REALTY TRUST, INC.**

**6200 The Corners Parkway, Suite 500**

**Norcross, Georgia 30092-3365**

**Proxy Statement and**

**Notice of Annual Meeting of Stockholders**

**To Be Held December 13, 2007**

Dear Stockholder:

On Thursday, December 13, 2007, Piedmont Office Realty Trust, Inc. ( Piedmont REIT ) (formerly known as Wells Real Estate Investment Trust, Inc.), a Maryland corporation, will hold its 2007 annual meeting of stockholders (the Annual Meeting ) at the Hilton Atlanta Northeast, 5993 Peachtree Industrial Blvd., Norcross, Georgia 30092. The meeting will begin at 1:30 p.m. eastern time.

The purpose of this Annual Meeting is to consider and to vote upon the following proposals:

1. A proposal to elect six directors to hold office for one-year terms expiring in 2008;
2. A proposal to amend our Charter in order to extend the date by which we must begin an orderly process of liquidation if we have not listed our common shares on a national securities exchange (the Liquidation Date ) from January 30, 2008 to July 30, 2009, and in the board of directors discretion, to further extend the Liquidation Date from July 30, 2009 to January 30, 2011; and
3. A proposal to approve an adjournment or postponement of the Annual Meeting, including if necessary, to solicit additional proxies in favor of the foregoing proposals if there are not sufficient votes for either of the proposals.

Your board of directors has selected October 2, 2007 as the record date for determining stockholders entitled to vote at the meeting.

Copies of our 2006 annual report to stockholders (our Annual Report ) have previously been mailed to our stockholders. This proxy statement and proxy card are being mailed to you on or about October , 2007.

WHETHER YOU PLAN TO ATTEND THE MEETING AND VOTE IN PERSON OR NOT, WE URGE YOU TO HAVE YOUR VOTE RECORDED AS EARLY AS POSSIBLE. YOU HAVE THE FOLLOWING THREE OPTIONS FOR SUBMITTING YOUR VOTES BY PROXY: (1) VIA THE INTERNET; (2) BY TELEPHONE; OR (3) BY MAIL, USING THE ENCLOSED PROXY CARD. BECAUSE WE ARE A WIDELY-HELD REIT WITH MORE THAN 110,000 STOCKHOLDERS, **YOUR VOTE IS VERY IMPORTANT! YOUR IMMEDIATE RESPONSE WILL HELP AVOID POTENTIAL DELAYS AND MAY SAVE PIEDMONT REIT SIGNIFICANT ADDITIONAL EXPENSES ASSOCIATED WITH SOLICITING STOCKHOLDER VOTES.**

BY ORDER OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Robert E. Bowers

Chief Financial Officer, Executive Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer

Atlanta, Georgia

October , 2007

## QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

We are providing you with this proxy statement, which contains information about the items to be voted upon at our Annual Meeting. To make this information easier to understand, we have presented some of the information below in a question and answer format.

**Q: Will my vote make a difference?**

**A:** Yes. Your vote is needed to ensure that the proposals can be acted upon. Because we are a widely-held REIT (with approximately 110,000 stockholders and, unlike most other public companies, no large brokerage houses own substantial blocks of our shares), **YOUR VOTE IS VERY IMPORTANT! Your immediate response will help avoid potential delays and may save Piedmont REIT significant additional expenses associated with soliciting stockholder votes.** We encourage you to participate in the governance of Piedmont REIT.

**Q: Why did you send me this Proxy Statement and proxy card?**

**A:** You are receiving a Proxy Statement and proxy card from us because you own shares of our common stock. This Proxy Statement describes issues on which we would like you, as a stockholder, to vote. It also gives you information on these issues so that you can make an informed decision.

When you sign the proxy card, you appoint Donald A. Miller, CFA, our Chief Executive Officer, and Robert E. Bowers, our Chief Financial Officer, as your representatives at the Annual Meeting. Messrs. Miller and Bowers will vote your shares at the Annual Meeting as you have instructed them on the proxy card. This way, your shares will be voted whether or not you attend the Annual Meeting. Even if you plan to attend the Annual Meeting, it is a good idea to complete, sign and return your proxy card, vote by telephone or vote over the Internet in advance of the Annual Meeting just in case your plans change.

If an issue comes up for vote at the Annual Meeting that is not on the proxy card, Messrs. Miller and Bowers will vote your shares, under your proxy, at their discretion.

**Q: When is the Annual Meeting and where will it be held?**

**A:** The Annual Meeting will be held on Thursday, December 13, 2007, at 1:30 p.m. (eastern time) at the Hilton Atlanta Northeast, 5993 Peachtree Industrial Blvd., Norcross, Georgia 30092.

**Q: Who is soliciting my proxy?**

**A:** This proxy is being solicited by the board of directors of Piedmont Office Realty Trust, Inc.

**Q: What is the record date?**

**A:** The record date is set for October 2, 2007. Only holders of record of common stock as of the close of business on this date will be entitled to vote at the Annual Meeting.

**Q: How many shares of common stock are outstanding and can vote?**

**A:** As of the record date, there were \_\_\_\_\_ shares of our common stock issued and outstanding. Every stockholder is entitled to one vote for each share of common stock held. Only shares of common stock outstanding as of the record date will be eligible to vote at the Annual Meeting.

**Q: How many votes do you need to hold the Annual Meeting?**

**A:** In order for us to conduct the Annual Meeting, we must have a quorum, which means that a majority of our outstanding shares of common stock as of the record date must be present in person or by proxy at the Annual Meeting. Your shares will be counted as present at the Annual Meeting if you:

vote over the Internet or by telephone,

properly submit a proxy card (even if you do not provide voting instructions), or

attend the Annual Meeting and vote in person.

**Q: On what items am I voting?**

**A:** You are being asked to vote on the following:

- (1) *Election of Directors* the election of six nominees to serve on the board of directors,
- (2) *Amendment of the Charter to Extend the Liquidation Date* the approval of an amendment to our Charter in order to extend the date by which we must begin an orderly process of liquidation if we have not listed our common shares on a national exchange (the Liquidation Date ) from January 30, 2008 to July 30, 2009, and in the board of directors' discretion, to extend further the Liquidation Date from July 30, 2009 to January 30, 2011, and
- (3) *Other Matters* the approval of a proposal to adjourn or postpone the Annual Meeting, including if necessary, to solicit additional proxies in favor of the foregoing proposals if there are not sufficient votes for either of the proposals.

No cumulative voting rights are authorized, and dissenter's rights are not applicable to the matters being voted upon.

**Q: How do I vote?**

**A:** If you are a registered stockholder, meaning that your shares are registered in your name, you have four voting options:

over the Internet at the web address shown on your proxy card (if you have access to the Internet, we encourage you to vote in this manner),

by telephone through the number shown on your proxy card,

by signing your proxy card and mailing it in the enclosed prepaid and addressed envelope, or

by attending the Annual Meeting and voting in person.

If you have Internet access, we encourage you to record your vote on the Internet. It is convenient, and it saves Piedmont REIT significant postage and processing costs. In addition, when you vote via the Internet or by phone prior to the meeting date, your vote is recorded immediately and there is no risk that postal delays will cause your vote to arrive late and, therefore, not be counted. For further instructions on voting, see your enclosed proxy card in this Proxy Statement.

**Q: How may I vote for the nominees for director?**



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**A:** With respect to the election of nominees for director, you may:

vote FOR ALL six nominees for director;

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FOR ALL EXCEPT which will be considered a vote in favor of all nominees EXCEPT those nominees you specifically list in the space provided; or

WITHHOLD ALL which will be considered a vote against all director nominees.

Each of the six nominees for re-election as a director will be elected at the Annual Meeting if a quorum is present at the Annual Meeting and at least a majority of shares present in person or by proxy and entitled to vote at such meeting vote in favor of such director for re-election. If you just sign your proxy card with no further instructions, your shares will be counted as a vote FOR ALL director nominees.

**Q: What happens if a nominee is unable to stand for election?**

**A:** If a nominee is unable to stand for election, the board of directors may, by resolution, provide for a lesser number of directors or designate a substitute nominee. If the board of directors designates a substitute nominee, shares represented by proxies voted for the nominee who is unable to stand for election will be voted for the substitute nominee.

**Q: How may I vote for the amendment to the Charter to extend the Liquidation Date?**

**A:** With respect to the proposal to amend the Charter to extend the Liquidation Date, you may:

vote FOR the proposal;

vote AGAINST the proposal; or

ABSTAIN from voting on the proposal.

The amendment to the Charter to extend the Liquidation Date will be approved if the proposal receives the affirmative vote of the holders of at least a majority of our outstanding shares of common stock entitled to vote thereon. If you abstain from voting on the proposal, it will have the same effect as a vote against the proposal. If you just sign your proxy card with no further instructions, your shares will be counted as a vote FOR the proposal to amend the Charter to extend the Liquidation Date.

**Q: The proposal discussing the amendment to our Charter refers to the Internalization. What is the Internalization?**

**A:** In April 2007, we became self-managed through the acquisition of two companies previously providing advisory and management services to us in a transaction, which we refer to as the Internalization. The Internalization was approved by our stockholders at a Special Meeting held on April 11, 2007. References in this Proxy Statement to our former advisor include, collectively, Wells Real Estate Funds, Inc. ( Wells REF ), Wells Advisory Services I, LLC ( WASI ), Wells Real Estate Advisory Services, Inc. ( WREAS ), Wells Government Services, Inc. ( WGS ) and their predecessors, as applicable, including those portions of the operations of Wells Capital, Inc. ( Wells Capital ) and Wells Management Company, Inc. ( Wells Management ) that previously provided advisory and management services to us under advisory, asset management and property management agreements.

**Q: What happens if the proposal to extend the Liquidation Date is approved?**

**A:** If the proposal to extend the Liquidation Date is approved, we intend to continue to operate the business of the company in accordance with our business plan while evaluating all other options available to the company. We believe that the extension of the Liquidation Date will give us the flexibility to continue to operate and grow the business and will likewise provide the flexibility to take advantage of all other options available to the company.

**Q: What happens if the proposal to extend the Liquidation Date is not approved?**

**A:** If the proposal to extend the Liquidation Date is not approved, our board of directors will consider all of its options prior to January 30, 2008 including a listing of our common stock, and if we do not pursue a listing or other strategic alternative prior to January 30, 2008, we will commence an orderly process of liquidation in accordance with our Charter.

**Q: How may I vote for the proposal to approve an adjournment or postponement of the Annual Meeting, including if necessary, to solicit additional proxies in favor of the foregoing proposals if there are not sufficient votes for either of the proposals?**

**A:** With respect to the proposal to approve an adjournment or postponement of the Annual Meeting, including if necessary, to solicit additional proxies in favor of the foregoing proposals if there are not sufficient votes for either of the proposals, you may:

vote FOR the proposal;  
vote AGAINST the proposal; or  
ABSTAIN from voting on the proposal.

This proposal will be approved if the proposal receives the affirmative vote of at least a majority of the votes cast at the Annual Meeting by the holders who are present in person or by proxy and entitled to vote at the meeting. If you abstain from voting on the proposal, it will have no effect on the outcome of the vote. If you just sign your proxy card with no further instructions, your shares will be counted as a vote FOR this proposal.

**Q: How does the board of directors recommend I vote on the proposals?**

**A:** The board of directors recommends a vote:

FOR ALL nominees for election as director who are named as such in this Proxy Statement,

FOR the proposal to amend the Charter to extend the Liquidation Date, and

FOR the proposal to approve an adjournment or postponement of the Annual Meeting, including if necessary, to solicit additional proxies in favor of the foregoing proposals if there are not sufficient votes for either of the proposals.

**Q: What if I return my proxy card and then change my mind?**

**A:** You have the right to revoke your proxy at any time before the meeting by:

voting again over the Internet or by telephone before 12:00 a.m., Eastern Time, on December 13, 2007;

giving written notice to Robert E. Bowers, our Secretary;

attending the Annual Meeting and voting in person; or

returning a new, valid proxy card bearing a later date, which is received before the Annual Meeting date.

**Q: How will the proxies be voted?**

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**A:** Any proxy, if it is received in time, is properly signed and is not revoked, will be voted at the Annual Meeting in accordance with the directions of the stockholder signing the proxy. If you return a signed proxy card but do not provide voting instructions, your shares will be voted:

FOR ALL of the six nominees to serve on the board of directors;

FOR the approval of the amendment to the Charter to extend Liquidation Date; and

FOR the approval of a proposal to adjourn or postpone the Annual Meeting, including if necessary, to solicit additional proxies in favor of the foregoing proposals if there are not sufficient votes for either of the proposals.

**Q: Are voting procedures different if I hold my shares in the name of a broker, bank or other nominee?**

**A:** If your shares are held in street name through a broker, bank or other nominee, please refer to the instructions they provide regarding how to vote your shares or to revoke your voting instructions. The availability of telephone and Internet voting depends on the voting processes of the broker, bank or other nominee.

**Q: What is the effect of abstentions and broker non-votes?**

**A:** Abstentions with respect to a proposal are counted for purposes of establishing a quorum.

With respect to the proposal to adjourn or postpone the Annual Meeting, abstentions will have no effect on the outcome of the vote. With respect to the proposal to elect six nominees to our board of directors and the proposal to amend the Charter to extend the Liquidation Date, abstentions will have the effect of a vote against such proposals.

If your shares are held in street name through a broker, bank or other nominee and you do not vote your shares, your broker, bank or other nominee may vote your shares on your behalf under certain circumstances.

On certain routine matters, such as the election of directors, brokerage firms have authority to vote their customers' shares if their customers do not provide voting instructions. When a brokerage firm votes its customers' shares on a routine matter without receiving voting instructions, these shares are counted both for establishing a quorum to conduct business at the meeting and in determining the number of shares voted *for* or *against* the routine matter.

On non-routine matters, such as the amendment to the Charter to extend the Liquidation Date and the proposal to adjourn or postpone the Annual Meeting to solicit additional proxies in favor of a proposal, the brokerage firm cannot vote the shares on that proposal if it has not received voting instructions from the beneficial owner of such shares.

A broker non-vote occurs when a beneficial owner fails to provide voting instructions to his or her broker as to how to vote shares held by the broker in street name and the broker does not have discretionary authority to vote without instructions. By signing your proxy card and returning it to your broker without specific voting instructions as to any proposal, your shares represented by that proxy will be voted FOR that proposal. Any shares you beneficially own not identified as represented by that proxy will be considered broker non-votes with respect to all non-routine matters, including (1) the proposal to amend the Charter to extend the Liquidation Date and (2) the proposal to adjourn or postpone the Annual Meeting, including to solicit additional proxies in favor of a proposal.

With respect to the Amendment to the Charter to extend the Liquidation Date, broker non-votes will have the effect of a vote AGAINST the proposal. With respect to the proposal to adjourn or postpone the Annual Meeting, broker non-votes will have no effect on the proposal.

**Q: How will voting on any other business be conducted?**

**A:** Although we do not know of any business to be considered at the Annual Meeting other than as set forth herein, if any other business is properly presented at the Annual Meeting, your signed proxy card gives authority to Donald A. Miller, CFA, our Chief Executive Officer and Robert E. Bowers, our Chief Financial Officer, or either of them, to vote on such matters in accordance with the recommendation of the board of directors or, in the absence of such a recommendation, in their discretion.

**Q: When are the stockholder proposals for the next Annual Meeting of stockholders due?**

**A:** All stockholder proposals to be considered for inclusion in the 2008 Proxy Statement must be submitted in writing to Robert E. Bowers, Chief Financial Officer, Piedmont Office Realty Trust, 6200 The Corners Parkway, Suite 500, Norcross, Georgia 30092-3365, no later than June 3, 2008. In order to be eligible for presentation at our 2008 annual meeting, our Bylaws require that written notice of any director nominations or other stockholder proposals must be received by our Secretary no later than September 14, 2008, but any such director nominations or stockholder proposals received after June 3, 2008 will not be included in our proxy solicitation materials.

**Q: Who pays the cost of this proxy solicitation?**

**A:** We will pay all the costs of soliciting these proxies. In addition to these mailed proxy materials, our employees, employees of our service providers. The Bank of New York and ComputerShare Fund Services, our proxy solicitors, may also solicit proxies in person, by telephone, or by other means of communication. Employees will not be paid any additional compensation for soliciting proxies. The Bank of New York will be paid an administrative fee of approximately \$2,500 and \$0.22 per phone vote and \$0.07 per internet vote, plus out-of-pocket expenses for its basic solicitation services, which include review of proxy materials, dissemination of brokers search cards, distribution of proxy materials, solicitation of brokers, banks, and institutional holders, and delivery of executed proxies. ComputerShare Fund Services will be paid \$5.00 per vote for its solicitation services. We may also reimburse brokerage houses and other custodians, nominees and fiduciaries for their reasonable out-of-pocket expenses for forwarding proxy and solicitation materials to beneficial owners.

**Q: Is this Proxy Statement the only way that proxies are being solicited?**

**A:** No. In addition to mailing proxy solicitation material, our directors and employees, as well as third party proxy service companies we retain, may also solicit proxies in person, via the internet, by telephone or by any other electronic means of communication we deem appropriate.

**Q: If I plan to attend the Annual Meeting in person, should I notify anyone?**

**A:** While you are not required to notify anyone in order to attend the Annual Meeting, if you do plan to attend the meeting, we would appreciate it if you would mark the appropriate box on the enclosed proxy card to let us know how many stockholders will be attending the meeting so that we will be able to prepare a suitable meeting room for the attendees.

**Q: How can I get additional copies of this Proxy Statement or other information filed with the SEC relating to this solicitation?**

**A:** You may obtain additional copies of this Proxy Statement, our 2006 Annual Report on Form 10-K and all other relevant documents filed by us with the SEC free of charge at the SEC's Web site located at [www.sec.gov](http://www.sec.gov), from our Web site at [www.piedmontreit.com](http://www.piedmontreit.com), or by calling our Investor Services Department at 1-800-557-4830.

In addition, we file annual, quarterly and special reports, Proxy Statements and other information with the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC). Our SEC filings are available to the public on the website maintained by the SEC at <http://www.sec.gov>. You may also read and copy any reports, statements or other information we file with the SEC at the SEC's Public Reference Room located at 100 F Street, N.E., Washington, DC 20549. You may also obtain copies of the documents at prescribed rates by writing to the Public Reference Section of the SEC at 100 F Street, N.E., Washington, DC 20549. Please call the SEC at 1-800-SEC-0330 for further information regarding the public reference facilities.

**PROPOSAL I:****ELECTION OF DIRECTORS**

At the Annual Meeting, you and the other stockholders will vote on the election of all six members of our board of directors. Those persons elected will serve as directors until the 2008 Annual Meeting or until they otherwise resign or are removed from the board. The board of directors has nominated the following people for re-election as directors:

Name	Age	Position(s)
W. Wayne Woody, Chairman	65	Director* and Chairman of the Board of Directors
Michael R. Buchanan	60	Director*
Wesley E. Cantrell	72	Director*
William H. Keogler, Jr.	61	Director*
Donald S. Moss	71	Director*
Donald A. Miller, CFA	44	Chief Executive Officer, President and Director

\* Indicates that such director is considered independent under the NYSE independence standards as determined by our board of directors.

The following is detailed information regarding each of the nominees:

**W. Wayne Woody** has served as an independent director of our company since 2003 and he was appointed Chairman of the board of directors on May 9, 2007. He served as the Interim Chief Financial Officer for Legacy Investment Group, a boutique investment firm, from 2000 to 2001. From 1968 until his retirement in 1999, Mr. Woody was employed by KPMG LLP and its predecessor firms, Peat Marwick Mitchell & Co. and Peat Marwick Main. As a Senior Partner of KPMG, he served in a number of key positions, including Securities and Exchange Commission Reviewing Partner and Partner-in-Charge of Professional Practice and Firm Risk Management for the southeastern United States and Puerto Rico. Mr. Woody was also a member of the board of directors of KPMG from 1990 through 1994. Prior to joining KPMG, Mr. Woody was the Principal Budget Analyst for the State of Georgia Office of Planning and Budget, where he reviewed, analyzed and presented the Governor's budget proposals to the state legislature. Mr. Woody is a former Chairman of the Audit Committee for the City of Atlanta. He is also a director and the former Chairman of the Audit Committee of the Metropolitan Atlanta Chapter of the American Red Cross. Mr. Woody is a former member of the board of directors for the Metropolitan Atlanta Chapter of the American Heart Association. Since 2003, he has served as a director of American HomePatient, Inc., a publicly traded home health care provider, and as a trustee of the Wells Family of Real Estate Funds. Prior to the Internalization, he was also a director of Wells Real Estate Investment Trust II, Inc. In addition, he formerly served as a trustee and chairman of the Finance Committee for the Georgia State University Foundation. Mr. Woody previously served a three-year term as Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the Georgia Center for the Visually Impaired. Mr. Woody received a Bachelor of Science degree from Middle Tennessee State University and a Master's of Business Administration degree from Georgia State University. He is a retired Certified Public Accountant in Georgia and North Carolina.

**Michael R. Buchanan** has served as an independent director of our company since 2002. Mr. Buchanan also currently serves as director of D.R. Horton, Inc., a publicly held residential development company. He was employed by Bank of America, N.A. and its predecessor banks, NationsBank and C&S National Bank, from 1972 until his retirement in March 2002. Mr. Buchanan has over 30 years of real estate banking and financial experience and, while at Bank of America, he held several key positions, including Managing Director of the Real Estate Banking Group, where he managed approximately 1,100 associates in 90 offices from 1998 until his retirement. This group was responsible for providing real estate loans, including construction, acquisition, development and bridge financing for the commercial and residential real estate industry, as well as providing structured financing for REITs. Mr. Buchanan has served as a trustee of Wells Family of Real Estate Funds since 2002. Mr. Buchanan is a graduate of the University of Kentucky where he earned a Bachelor of Economics degree and a Master's of Business Administration degree. He also attended Harvard University in the graduate program for management development.

**Wesley E. Cantrell** has served as an independent director of our company since May 9, 2007. He was employed by Lanier Worldwide, Inc. (formerly NYSE: LR), a global document management company, from 1955 until his retirement in 2001. While at Lanier, Mr. Cantrell served in a number of key positions, including President from 1977 to 1987, President and Chief Executive Officer from 1987-1999, and Chairman and Chief Executive Officer from 1999 to 2001. During his time at Lanier, Mr. Cantrell oversaw the company's sales increase from less than \$100 million to over \$1.4 billion and successfully transitioned the company through several major technology changes while repositioning a competitive U.S.-





based company into a global competitor. More recently, in May 2007, Mr. Cantrell co-authored the book, High-Performance Ethics: 10 Timeless Principles for Next-Generation Leadership. The book emphasizes integrity and ethical decision-making as essential elements for any successful business. Mr. Cantrell is currently a director for AnnTaylor Stores Corporation (NYSE: ANN), a publicly traded women's specialty retailer listed on the NYSE, and previously served as a director for First Union National Bank of Atlanta and as a director of Institutional REIT, Inc., a public program newly sponsored by our former advisor. Mr. Cantrell graduated from the Southern Technical Institute with highest honors and was awarded an honorary doctorate from Southern Polytechnic State University.

**William H. Keogler, Jr.** has served as an independent director of our company since 1998. From December 1974 to July 1982, Mr. Keogler was employed by Robinson-Humphrey, Inc., an investment banking company, brokerage and trading firm, as the Director of Fixed Income Trading Departments responsible for municipal bond trading and municipal research, corporate and government bond trading, unit trusts and SBA/FHA loans, as well as being a member of the board of directors. From July 1982 to October 1984, Mr. Keogler was Executive Vice President, Chief Operating Officer, Chairman of the Executive Investment Committee and member of the board of directors and Chairman of the Managed Funds Association Advisory Board for the Financial Service Corporation. In March 1985, Mr. Keogler founded Keogler, Morgan & Company, Inc., a full-service brokerage firm, and Keogler Investment Advisory, Inc., an investment advisory firm, in which he served as Chairman of the Board, President and Chief Executive Officer. In January 1997, both companies were sold to SunAmerica, Inc., a publicly traded NYSE-listed company. Mr. Keogler continued to serve as President and Chief Executive Officer of these companies until his retirement in January 1998.

**Donald S. Moss** has served as an independent director of our company since 1998. He was employed by Avon Products, Inc. (NYSE: AVP), a publicly traded global beauty company listed on the NYSE, from 1957 until his retirement in 1986. While at Avon, Mr. Moss served in a number of key positions, including Vice President and Controller from 1973 to 1976, Group Vice President of Operations-Worldwide from 1976 to 1979, Group Vice President of Sales-Worldwide from 1979 to 1980, Senior Vice President-International from 1980 to 1983, and Group Vice President-Human Resources and Administration from 1983 until his retirement in 1986. Mr. Moss has served as a trustee of the Wells Family of Real Estate Funds since 1998 and as a director of Wells Timberland REIT, Inc. since 2006. Prior to the Internalization, he also served as a director of Wells Real Estate Investment Trust II, Inc. Mr. Moss was also a member of the board of directors of Avon Canada, Avon Japan, Avon Thailand, and Avon Malaysia from 1980 to 1983. Mr. Moss is a former director of The Atlanta Athletic Club. He was the National Treasurer and a director of the Girls Clubs of America from 1973 to 1976. Mr. Moss attended the University of Illinois where he majored in business.

**Donald A. Miller, CFA**, has served as our Chief Executive Officer, President, and a member of our board of directors since February 2, 2007. From 2003 to 2007, Mr. Miller was a Vice President of Wells REF and a Senior Vice President of Wells Capital. In such capacities, he was responsible for directing all aspects of the acquisitions, dispositions, property management, construction and leasing groups for Wells REF, Wells Capital and their affiliates in connection with these entities providing services to us under advisory, asset management and property management agreements to which we were a party prior to the Internalization. Prior to joining Wells REF and Wells Capital, Mr. Miller joined and ultimately headed the U.S. equity real estate operations, including acquisitions, dispositions, financing and investment management, of Lend Lease, a leading international commercial office, retail and residential property group from 1994 to 2003. Prior to joining Lend Lease, Mr. Miller was responsible for regional acquisitions for Prentiss Properties Realty Advisors, a predecessor entity to Prentiss Properties Trust, a publicly traded, self-administered and self-managed real estate investment trust (which was acquired by Brandywine Realty Trust in 2005). Earlier in his career, Mr. Miller worked in the pension investment management department of Delta Air Lines and was responsible for real estate and international equity investment programs. Mr. Miller is a Chartered Financial Analyst and holds a Georgia real estate license. He received a B.A. from Furman University in Greenville, South Carolina. He is a member of Urban Land Institution (ULI), National Association of Industrial and Office Properties (NAIOP) and the National Association of Real Estate Investment Trusts (NAREIT).

#### **Vote Required; Recommendation**

Each of the six nominees for re-election as a director will be elected at the Annual Meeting if a quorum is present at the Annual Meeting and a majority of shares present in person or by proxy and entitled to vote at such meeting vote in favor of such director for re-election. A properly executed proxy marked **FOR ALL** will be considered a vote in favor of all nominees for re-election as director. A properly executed proxy marked **FOR ALL EXCEPT** will be considered a vote in favor of all nominees EXCEPT those nominees you specifically list in the space provided. A properly executed proxy marked **WITHHOLD ALL** will be considered a vote against all director nominees. Your board of directors unanimously recommends a vote **FOR ALL** nominees listed for re-election as directors.

**PROPOSAL II:**

**AMENDMENT TO THE CHARTER TO EXTEND**

**THE LIQUIDATION DATE**

**Introduction**

Due to the recent turmoil in the equity and credit markets and for the other reasons set forth below, our board of directors has unanimously determined that it is advisable (i) to extend the Liquidation Date from January 30, 2008 to July 30, 2009 and (ii) to provide the board of directors with the discretionary authority, to extend the Liquidation Date further from July 30, 2009 to January 30, 2011. In order to accomplish this, we need stockholder approval of an amendment to our Charter. The full text of this amendment is set forth in the proposed Amendment No. 2 to the Second Articles of Amendment and Restatement which is attached hereto as **Appendix B**. If the proposal to extend the Liquidation Date is approved, we intend to continue to operate the business of the company, while evaluating all other options available to the company.

**Background**

Our Charter requires that, unless we list our common shares on a national securities exchange or over-the-counter market by January 30, 2008, which we refer to as the Liquidation Date in this Proxy Statement, we must commence an orderly process of liquidation.

Accordingly, in late 2004, our board of directors appointed a special committee, which we refer to as the Special Committee, composed of Messrs. W. Wayne Woody, Michael R. Buchanan, Richard W. Carpenter and William H. Keogler, Jr., each of whom was an independent director, to evaluate and investigate the advisability of an internalization and other alternative strategic options. Although internalization transactions are a typical step in the lifecycle of many non-listed REITs, the Special Committee undertook a thorough process to ascertain the strategic alternative that it believed would provide stockholders the greatest potential to maximize their long term investment return. To assist them in this analysis, the Special Committee retained Rogers & Hardin LLP as its legal counsel and Robert A. Stanger & Co., Inc., a real estate industry expert, as its financial advisor. The Special Committee investigated and analyzed various options with its financial advisor and legal counsel and ultimately determined that it was in the best interests of Piedmont REIT and its stockholders to internalize its former advisor, which we refer to as the Internalization in this Proxy Statement. The Special Committee concluded that the Internalization would, among other things, (i) better position the company for a successful listing on a national securities exchange, (ii) be accretive over time to our earnings per share and our funds from operations per share due to a reduction in operating costs resulting from no longer paying advisory, property management and certain of the other fees and expense reimbursements to our former advisor and (iii) provide a dedicated and internal management team fully focused on our operations and strategic plans. This determination was based on a number of factors, including, among others, a review of then-current real estate market conditions, an analysis of the possible strategic alternatives and certain potential advantages and disadvantages of such alternatives, an evaluation of the potential financial impact on us and our stockholders of such alternatives and information regarding the experiences of other REITs with respect to internalization and other alternatives, and financial advice of Robert A. Stanger & Co., Inc. The Special Committee also retained Ernst & Young LLP to undertake certain agreed upon procedures on financial information relating to the transaction. In addition, we received a written fairness opinion from Houlihan Lokey Howard & Zukin Financial Advisors, Inc. as to the fairness, from a financial point of view, to us of the consideration to be paid by us in the Internalization.

Consistent with this decision, the Special Committee negotiated a merger agreement with Wells REF, Wells Capital, Wells Management, WASI, WREAS and WGS, which was entered into on February 2, 2007. Although not legally required, the Merger Agreement conditioned closing of the Internalization on approval by our stockholders. On April 11, 2007, a majority of our stockholders (94% of those voting) approved the Internalization and on April 16, 2007, we completed the Internalization and became self-managed and self-advised.

In the time between entering into the Merger Agreement and the completion of the Internalization, our board of directors and management had discussions with investment bankers and other advisors regarding a possible listing. In early April, Morgan Stanley & Co. Incorporated and J.P. Morgan Securities met with our board of directors and presented information relating to market conditions and a potential listing of our common stock. Upon the completion of the Internalization, we formally engaged Morgan Stanley & Co. Incorporated and J.P. Morgan Securities Inc., which we hereafter refer to as our Financial Advisors, to continue to assist us with our evaluation of a listing. Based on input from our Financial Advisors, our legal advisors and Robert A. Stanger & Co. Inc. and after again considering strategic alternatives available to our company, our board of directors determined that it was in the best interests of the company and our

stockholders to immediately pursue a listing of our common stock on a national securities exchange. We also determined to pursue a concurrent offering of our common stock, which our Financial Advisors viewed as an important component to a successful launch of our company onto the publicly-traded markets. After the closing of the Internalization on April 16, 2007, we immediately began to take steps necessary to list our common stock and complete a concurrent offering of our common stock. With the assistance of our Financial Advisors and our legal counsel, we began to prepare a registration statement on Form S-11 and prospectus for the concurrent offering, which we filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission on May 23, 2007 with Morgan Stanley & Co. Incorporated and J.P. Morgan Securities Inc. as lead underwriters. In addition, after completion of the Internalization, we implemented other strategies in order to pursue a listing of our common stock on a national securities exchange, including among other things, making improvements to our corporate governance practices, making changes to the makeup of our board of directors, and changing our name in order to differentiate ourselves as a unique, high quality, self-advised office REIT.

After we filed the registration statement, the publicly traded REIT markets traded down and as a result, our Financial Advisors believed that the values we would receive upon a listing and concurrent offering of our common shares could be affected by those public equity market conditions. As a result, our board of directors asked our Financial Advisors to begin conducting conversations with a limited number of third parties that were financially capable of consummating a strategic transaction with the company to review the values that could be obtained in a strategic transaction including a possible sale of the company and to compare those values with the potential value which was anticipated to be obtained through listing of our shares under then current market conditions. On July 12, 2007, our Financial Advisors reported to our board of directors the results of their conversations, indicating that the potential buyers contacted confirmed management's view of valuation for the assets of the company but that none of these potential buyers was interested at that time in pursuing the acquisition of the company as a whole. In late July, the credit markets continued to deteriorate, and we observed a steep decline in valuations of public REIT stocks. During the week of July 23, 2007, the MSCI US REIT Index dropped 8.9%, bringing the decline in the MSCI US REIT Index in the period from Internalization on April 16, 2007 to August 3, 2007 to 19.1%. At a meeting held on August 6, 2007, our board of directors continued to discuss potential strategic alternatives available to the company given the deteriorating capital market conditions, including a potential listing of our common stock. At such meeting, our Financial Advisors reported to our board of directors their view that given the then-current equity market environment and recent credit market disruptions, our stock would likely trade at a significant discount to the long-term value of the company if the company opted to proceed with a listing of our stock under the then-current capital market conditions. Given these market conditions, our board of directors determined to postpone any listing and to re-evaluate, with the advice of our Financial Advisors, the company's strategic options in early September.

The volatility in valuations of REIT stocks and tumult in the U.S. credit markets continued throughout the months of August and September. The turmoil in the US credit markets has created a greater sense of uncertainty which is negatively affecting pricing in the public real estate equity markets and has created uncertainty regarding values in the context of sales of assets and strategic transactions.

On September 12, 2007, our board of directors met with and received a report from our Financial Advisors on capital market conditions, which had not materially improved since our August 6 meeting due to continued turmoil in credit markets prompted by concerns regarding sub-prime mortgage defaults among other things. Based on this input and other factors described below, our board of directors determined that it was in the best interests of the company and our stockholders to delay the listing and concurrent offering of our common stock until the public real estate equity markets have stabilized. Our board of directors also discussed the approaching Liquidation Date and determined that being required to pursue a listing, sale of assets or any other strategic transaction prior to the current Liquidation Date in light of the current capital market conditions might adversely affect our ability to effectively maximize stockholder value.

Accordingly, our board of directors determined to extend the Liquidation Date as described herein and to recommend that our stockholders vote **FOR** this proposal.

#### **Reasons for the Amendment to the Charter**

Our board of directors believes that it is in the best interests of our stockholders to begin the process to amend our Charter to extend the Liquidation Date. Our board of directors considered various time periods for extension and determined to extend initially from January 30, 2008 to July 30, 2009 in order to allow time for market conditions to improve. However, our board of directors also thought it was prudent to request the flexibility to further extend the Liquidation Date to January 30, 2011 without further stockholder approval to the extent the board of directors determines that such further extension is necessary to effectively maximize stockholder value. The board of directors' determination as to time periods was based on input from our Financial Advisors that timeframe would likely be enough time for the public equity markets and credit markets to stabilize and for the board of directors to be able to effect a successful listing of our common stock, or if such

listing is not expected to effectively maximize stockholder value at such time, to evaluate and pursue a sale of our company or other strategic transaction. Our board of directors recommends that our stockholders approve the amendment to the Charter to extend the Liquidation Date.

If the proposal to extend the Liquidation Date is approved, we intend to continue to operate the business of the company in accordance with our business plan while evaluating all other options available to the company. We believe that our business fundamentals are strong. With approximately \$5 billion in property assets encompassing over 21 million square feet as of June 30, 2007, we rank as one of the largest office property owners in the United States. Across our portfolio, our properties are approximately 94% leased. Since January 1, 2007, we have renewed leases relating to over 1.3 million square feet of our properties. Further, approximately 91% of our annualized gross rent is derived from tenants that have investment grade ratings, are subsidiaries of investment grade companies, are government agencies or are nationally recognized corporations or professional service firms.

In addition, our leverage ratios are among the lowest in the publicly traded REIT office sector and we have considerable capital resources, which provides us with the financial capacity to grow our portfolio, funds from operations, and potentially stockholder values when market conditions allow for accretive acquisitions. On July 16, 2007, Standard & Poor's Ratings Services assigned its BBB corporate credit rating and a stable outlook to the company and on July 19, 2007, Moody's assigned its Baa3 rating and stable outlook to Piedmont Operating Partnership, LP. With our strong operating fundamentals and the investment grade credit ratings from S&P and Moody's, we recently obtained a \$500 million unsecured debt line with the ability to request an increase from our lenders to \$1 billion to fund acquisitions, grow our business and enhance stockholder value. We are actively pursuing opportunities to capitalize on the current market and new acquisitions that we believe will complement our current portfolio and create stockholder value, and we are continuing to evaluate the potential disposition of certain non-strategic assets with limited appreciation potential.

In addition, we have begun to realize some of the benefits of the Internalization. Our five-member executive management team which is fully dedicated to our company has an average of over 21 years of commercial real estate and/or public company financial management experience, and almost three years of experience working together to operate the existing portfolio and execute our investment strategy. Because the Internalization closed on April 16, 2007, our quarterly results for the first and second quarters of 2007 do not fully reflect the cost-savings benefits of the transaction; however, we believe we have been able to realize the financial benefits of the Internalization thus far and will continue to realize these benefits in the coming years through the elimination of advisory, property management fees and certain of the other fees and expense reimbursements paid to our former advisors, and the dedication of an employee base focused solely on our operations.

We believe that the extension of the Liquidation Date will give us the flexibility to continue to operate and grow the business and will likewise provide the flexibility to take advantage of all other options available to the company. Despite the downturn in the public equity markets and dislocation in the credit markets, office fundamentals in the U.S. office market remain strong, with rental rates continuing to increase particularly in high barrier markets and office vacancy rates declining from 18.3% in 2002 to 12.7% in the first quarter of 2007. Our board of directors believes that the extension of the Liquidation Date will allow us to take advantage of these strong fundamentals by continuing to renew and execute favorable leases, undertaking accretive acquisitions and potentially increasing our funds from operations per share. If the proposal to extend the Liquidation Date is approved, our board of directors intends to continue to review all available strategic options for the company including a listing of our common stock, or a merger, business combination, portfolio asset sale or a liquidation of our assets. Any one of these or other strategic alternatives may be pursued at any time including prior to January 30, 2008 if our board of directors determines that it is in the best interest of the company and its stockholders to do so. If the proposal to extend the Liquidation Date is not approved, our board of directors will consider all of its options prior to January 30, 2008 including a listing of our common stock, and if we do not pursue a listing or other strategic alternative prior to January 30, 2008, we will commence an orderly process of liquidation in accordance with our Charter.

#### **Plans to Provide Interim Liquidity for Stockholders**

In an effort to accommodate potential interim liquidity needs of some stockholders, our board of directors intends to reinstate the company's share redemption program, which we refer to as the Share Redemption Program, in the fourth quarter of 2007. We intend to monitor the demand of our stockholders requesting redemptions pursuant to the Share Redemption Program. If demand exceeds the current limitations on redemption as set forth in the Share Redemption Program, the board of directors will consider amending the Share Redemption Program or adopting other liquidity programs to provide additional interim liquidity for our stockholders. While we currently intend to attempt to accommodate the interim liquidity needs of our stockholders, there can be no assurance that we will be able to accommodate all requests for

redemption under the Share Redemption Program or any other alternative liquidity program that our board of directors may elect to adopt.

#### **Recommendation of the Board of Directors**

Our board of directors believes that the amendment to our Charter to extend the Liquidation Date is advisable and in the best interests of Piedmont REIT and our stockholders and has unanimously approved the amendment to the Charter to extend the Liquidation Date and unanimously recommends that you vote **FOR** the proposal to approve the amendment to our Charter to extend the Liquidation Date.

In reaching its conclusion, our board of directors consulted with our management, as well as with our legal and Financial Advisors and Robert A. Stanger & Co., and considered a variety of factors weighing favorably towards the amendment including, without limitation, the following:

given current challenging capital market conditions, the risk that the initial offering price in an offering of our common stock at this time and the initial trading price of the stock upon listing under current market conditions would not reflect the long-term value of the company;

discussions with our Financial Advisors regarding prices that could be obtained in a sales transaction for the company with a third party under current market conditions and the concern that such values would not reflect the long-term value of the company;

the financial strength of our company which permits the continuation of our business operations as an alternative to a listing or a strategic transaction under current market conditions;

the current strength of office real estate fundamentals and our ability to create stockholder value;

discussions with our Financial Advisors regarding the long-term potential values of the company and its shares based on various potential future strategies when market conditions improve; and

our financial ability to offer limited interim liquidity to our stockholders through our Share Redemption Program.

Our board of directors weighed these advantages and opportunities against a number of other factors identified in its deliberations weighing negatively against the amendment to the Charter to extend the Liquidation Date, including:

all of our stockholders may not receive liquidity by January 30, 2008 if the amendment to the Charter to extend the Liquidation Date is approved;

our stockholders purchased shares of our common stock with the expectation that we would commence an orderly process of liquidation if our shares were not listed by January 30, 2008;

there is no assurance that current market conditions will improve such that a listing and concurrent offering of our common shares or other strategic transaction before July 30, 2009, or even before January 30, 2011, will prove to be in the best interests of Piedmont REIT and our stockholders;

if we continue as a going concern, we may not continue our historic level of distributions to stockholders, and our distribution levels may fluctuate;

the amendment to the Charter to extend the Liquidation Date requires only the affirmative vote of the holders of at least a majority of our outstanding shares of common stock entitled to vote thereon, meaning that even if you vote against the proposal, if the proposal is approved by a sufficient number of stockholders, your ability to obtain liquidity for your shares may be delayed beyond January 30, 2011;

although our board of directors will endeavor to provide limited interim liquidity through the reinstatement of the Share Redemption Program or other liquidity alternative, we are under no obligation to reinstate the Share Redemption Program or otherwise provide interim liquidity of our stockholders; further, there can be no assurance that we will be able to accommodate all requests for redemption under the Share Redemption Program or alternative liquidity program.

if we amend the Share Redemption Program or adopt an alternative liquidity program in order to increase the number of shares that may be repurchased, we may fund such repurchases through borrowings on our credit facility or the incurrence of other indebtedness, which will increase our leverage ratios and may limit the amount of funds that are available for us to use for other purposes.

After consideration of these factors, our board of directors determined that these risks were significantly outweighed by the potential benefits of extending the Liquidation Date.

Although this discussion of the information and factors considered by our board of directors is believed to include the material factors considered by our board of directors, it is not intended to be exhaustive and may not include all of the factors considered by our board of directors. In reaching its determination to approve and recommend the amendment to our Charter to extend the Liquidation Date, our board of directors did not quantify or assign any relative or specific weights to the various factors that it considered in reaching its determination that proposal is advisable and in the best interests of Piedmont REIT and our stockholders. Rather, our board of directors based its position and recommendation on the totality of the information presented to and factors considered by it. In addition, individual members of our board of directors may have given differing weights to different factors.

### **Proposed Amendment**

Section 11.1 of our existing Charter provides as follows:

In the event that Listing does not occur on or before January 30, 2008, the Company shall immediately thereafter undertake an orderly liquidation and Sale of the Company's Assets and will distribute any Net Sales Proceeds therefrom to Stockholders, following which the Company shall terminate and dissolve. In the event that Listing occurs on or before such date, the Company shall continue perpetually unless dissolved pursuant to the provisions contained herein or pursuant to any applicable provision of the MGCL.

Section 11.1 of our existing Charter is being amended in Amendment No. 2 to our Second Articles of Amendment and Restatement to extend the Liquidation Date as follows:

In the event that Listing does not occur on or before the Determination Date, the Company shall immediately thereafter undertake an orderly liquidation and Sale of the Company's Assets and will distribute any Net Sales Proceeds therefrom to Stockholders, following which the Company shall terminate and dissolve. In the event that Listing occurs on or before such date, the Company shall continue perpetually unless dissolved pursuant to the provisions contained herein or pursuant to any applicable provision of the MGCL.

Section 1.5 of our existing Charter will be amended to add the following definition:

**DETERMINATION DATE** means July 30, 2009 provided that the Company's Board of Directors may in its sole discretion extend the Determination Date to January 30, 2011 through a resolution adopted by a majority of the Directors.

### **Conforming Changes**

In addition, Amendment No. 2 to our Second Articles of Amendment and Restatement would make conforming changes to Sections 3.2(xxiii) and 5.1 of our existing Charter.

Section 3.2(xxiii) of our existing Charter currently provides that one of the powers of the board of directors is:

To cause the listing of the Shares at any time after completion of the Initial Public Offering, but in no event shall such Listing occur more than ten (10) years after completion of the Initial Public Offering.

Amendment No. 2 to our Second Articles of Amendment and Restatement would amend Section 3.2(xxiii) to remove the following clause from this provision:

but in no event shall such Listing occur more than ten (10) years after completion of the Initial Public Offering.

Amendment No. 2 to our Second Articles of Amendment and Restatement would amend Section 5.1 of our existing Charter to remove the following clause from the list of our investment objectives:





to provide Stockholders with liquidity of their investment within ten (10) years after the commencement of the Initial Public Offering through either (a) the Listing of the Common Shares or (b) if Listing does not occur within ten years following the commencement of the Initial Public Offering, the dissolution of the Company and orderly liquidation of its Assets

#### **Implementation of Amendments**

If approved by our stockholders at the Annual Meeting, the amendments reflected in Amendment No. 2 to our Second Articles of Amendment and Restatement will be effected by our filing of the such Amendment No. 2 with the State Department of Assessments and Taxation of the State of Maryland, which we refer to as the SDAT, and will become effective upon filing and acceptance for record by the SDAT.

#### **Appraisal Rights**

Under Maryland law and our Charter, you will not be entitled to rights of appraisal with respect to Amendment No. 2 to our Second Articles of Amendment and Restatement. Accordingly, to the extent that you object to Amendment No. 2 to our Second Articles of Amendment and Restatement, you will not have the right to have a court judicially determine (and you will not receive) the fair value for your shares of common stock under the provisions of Maryland law governing appraisal rights.

#### **Vote Required**

Approval of this proposal to amend our existing Charter requires the affirmative vote of the holders of at least a majority of our outstanding shares of common stock entitled to vote thereon. Proxies received will be voted for approval of this proposal unless stockholders designate otherwise.

**Our board of directors has deemed it advisable and in the best interests of the company and our stockholders to approve the amendment to the Charter to extend the Liquidation Date and has unanimously recommended that our stockholders approve this amendment to our Charter. Our board of directors unanimously approved Amendment No. 2 to our Second Articles of Amendment and Restatement and recommends that you vote FOR this proposal.**

**PROPOSAL III:**

**PROPOSAL TO APPROVE AN ADJOURNMENT**

**OR POSTPONEMENT OF THE ANNUAL MEETING**

The third proposal is to consider and vote upon the proposal to approve an adjournment or postponement of the Annual Meeting, including if necessary, to solicit additional proxies in favor of Proposal I and Proposal II if there are not sufficient votes for either of the proposals.

**Vote Required**

The proposal to approve and adjournment or postponement of the Annual Meeting, including if necessary, to solicit additional proxies in favor of the foregoing proposals if there are not sufficient votes for either of the proposals must receive the affirmative vote of a majority of the votes cast at the annual meeting by the holders who are present in person or by proxy to pass. If you abstain from voting on the proposal, it will have no effect on the outcome of the vote.

**Recommendation of the Board of Directors**

Our board of directors unanimously recommends that you vote **FOR** the proposal to approve the postponement or adjournment of the Annual Meeting.

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**CERTAIN INFORMATION ABOUT MANAGEMENT**
**Executive Officers**

Prior to February 2, 2007, our executive officers were not our direct employees. Effective February 2, 2007, we hired Mr. Miller to be our Chief Executive Officer and President. In addition, after the completion of the Internalization, we hired Mr. Bowers, Ms. Moon, Mr. Owens and Mr. Reddic as our direct employees and executive officers. We have provided below certain information about our executive officers.

Name	Age	Position(s)
Donald A. Miller, CFA	44	Chief Executive Officer, President and Director
Robert E. Bowers	50	Chief Financial Officer, Executive Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer
Laura P. Moon	36	Senior Vice President and Chief Accounting Officer
Raymond L. Owens	49	Executive Vice President Capital Markets
Carroll A. Reddic, IV	41	Executive Vice President Real Estate Operations

The following is detailed information about each of our executive officers other than Mr. Miller whose biographical information is included on page 8 of this Proxy Statement.

**Robert E. Bowers** has served as our Chief Financial Officer since April 16, 2007. A 23-year veteran of the financial services industry, Mr. Bowers' experience includes investor relations, debt and capital infusion, structuring of initial public offerings, budgeting and forecasting, financial management and strategic planning. From 2004 until 2007, he served as Chief Financial Officer and Vice President of Wells REF and was a Senior Vice President of Wells Capital. Prior to joining Wells REF and Wells Capital in 2004, Mr. Bowers served as a business financial consultant, and provided strategic financial counsel to a range of organizations, including venture capital funds, public corporations and businesses considering listing on a national securities exchange. Mr. Bowers was previously Chief Financial Officer of NetBank, Inc., the first profitable internet bank, from 1997 to 2002. While at NetBank, he participated in the company's successful initial public offering and subsequent secondary offerings, and directed all SEC and regulatory reporting and compliance. From 1984 to 1995, Mr. Bowers was Chief Financial Officer and Director of Stockholder Systems, Inc., a Norcross, Georgia-based financial applications company. When CheckFree Corporation, a pioneer in the electronic bill payment industry, acquired Stockholder Systems in 1995, Mr. Bowers headed the merger negotiation team and became Chief Financial Officer of the combined organization. Mr. Bowers began his career in 1978 as an audit manager for Arthur Andersen & Company in Atlanta. Mr. Bowers earned a Bachelor of Science in Accounting from Auburn University, where he graduated summa cum laude. He is a Certified Public Accountant and serves on the boards of various Atlanta-area non-profit organizations.

**Laura P. Moon** has served as our Senior Vice President and Chief Accounting Officer since April 16, 2007. In this role she is responsible for all general ledger accounting, financial and tax reporting, and treasury functions. Prior to joining us, Ms. Moon had been Vice President and Chief Accounting Officer at Wells REF since 2005 where she had responsibility for all general ledger accounting, financial and tax reporting, and internal audit supervision for 19 public registrants as well as several private real estate partnerships. From 2003 to 2005, Ms. Moon served as Senior Director of Financial Planning and Analysis for ChoicePoint, Inc., which provides technology, software, information and marketing services to help manage economic and physical risks. Ms. Moon was responsible for budgeting, forecasting, valuation and structuring for all of ChoicePoint's acquisitions as well as supporting certain Investor Relations activities. From 1999 to 2002, Ms. Moon served as Chief Accounting Officer of NetBank, Inc and Chief Financial Officer of NetBank, FSB where she was responsible for the day-to-day management of all financial and tax matters. From 1991 until 1999, Ms. Moon was employed by Deloitte & Touche LLP as a senior manager in the audit and attest division, where she specialized in mergers & acquisitions in addition to serving clients in the banking sector. Ms. Moon is a Certified Public Accountant. She earned a Bachelor of Business Administration in Accounting from the University of Georgia.

**Raymond L. Owens** has served as our Executive Vice President Capital Markets since April 16, 2007. In this capacity, Mr. Owens is responsible for acquisition, disposition and financing activities of our company. Until becoming one of our executive officers in connection with our Internalization, Mr. Owens spent five years as a Managing Director Capital Markets for Wells REF, where he oversaw its western regional acquisition team and its real estate finance team. He was responsible for directing the negotiation and acquisition of properties in the western United States and managed all property financing activity for our former advisor across the United States. Mr. Owens has more than 25 years of experience in acquisitions, asset management, investment management, finance, and business development. Mr. Owens served as Senior Vice President for PM Realty Group, a national, full-service commercial real estate firm, from 1997 to 2002, overseeing all management operations in Atlanta, Washington, D.C., Chicago, and New York. Before joining PM Realty Group, Mr. Owens served as Vice President at General Electric Asset Management, where he managed and negotiated dispositions as well as

third-party, nonrecourse financing for real estate assets. He also held leadership positions at Aetna Realty Investors from 1982 to 1991, Travelers Realty Investment Company from 1991 to 1994, and HPI Realty Partners/The Koll Company from 1994 to 1995. Mr. Owens is a member of the National Association of Real Estate Investment Managers (NAREIM), the National Association of Industrial & Office Properties (NAIOP), the Urban Land Institute (ULI), and the Mortgage Bankers Association (MBA). He earned a Bachelor of Arts in Economics and a Master's of Business Administration in Marketing, with a concentration in real estate, from the University of Michigan.

**Carroll A. (Bo) Reddic, IV** has served as our Executive Vice President for Real Estate Operations since April 16, 2007. His responsibilities include leading our company's asset and property management divisions. Additionally, he provides oversight to our company's construction management and tenant relationship functions. From 2005 to 2007, Mr. Reddic was a Managing Director in the Asset Management Department at Wells REF, where he was responsible for supervising the firm's asset management function in its Midwest and South regions. Additionally, he served in a deputy department head capacity of the Asset Management Department. From September 30, 2005 to April 15, 2007, Mr. Reddic served on the board of directors and was the membership chairman for Wells REF's political action committee, Wells PAC. Mr. Reddic has 18 years of institutional real estate experience. Prior to joining Wells REF in January 2005, Mr. Reddic was an Executive Director with Morgan Stanley (including the predecessor companies of The Yarmouth Group and Lend Lease Real Estate Investments) from February 1990 to December 2004, where he served as portfolio manager for domestic commingled investment funds and international separate account portfolios. Prior to his portfolio manager responsibilities, he was a member of the Atlanta satellite office, specializing in acquisitions, asset management, and dispositions. Prior to joining The Yarmouth Group, Mr. Reddic was employed at Laventhol & Horwath, an accounting firm, in its real estate consulting and appraisal division. Mr. Reddic received a Bachelor of Science degree in Industrial Management and a Certificate in Industrial Psychology, with honors, from the Georgia Institute of Technology and a Master of City Planning degree from the Georgia Institute of Technology. He is a member of the National Association of Industrial & Office Properties (NAIOP), the Urban Land Institute (ULI) and the American Planning Association (APA). Additionally, Mr. Reddic is a Trustee of NAIOP-PAC and a member of the Advisory Board for the City and Regional Planning Program at Georgia Tech.

There are no family relationships among our directors or executive officers.

**INFORMATION REGARDING THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND COMMITTEES**

Our board of directors has established five standing committees: the audit committee, the compensation committee, the nominating and corporate governance committee, the capital committee and the conflicts committee. Although our shares are not currently listed for trading on a national securities exchange, our board of directors has elected to have the composition of each of the audit committee, the compensation committee and the nominating and corporate governance committee comply with the listing requirements and other rules and regulations of the NYSE, as amended or modified from time to time. All members of the committees described below are independent as such term is defined in the NYSE's listing standards and as affirmatively determined by our board of directors.

<b>Board Committee</b>	<b>Chairman</b>	<b>Members</b>
Audit Committee	W. Wayne Woody*	Michael R. Buchanan  Wesley E. Cantrell  William H. Keogler, Jr.  Donald S. Moss
Compensation Committee	Donald S. Moss	Michael R. Buchanan  Wesley E. Cantrell  William H. Keogler, Jr.  W. Wayne Woody
Nominating & Corporate Governance Committee	Donald S. Moss	Michael R. Buchanan  Wesley E. Cantrell  William H. Keogler, Jr.  W. Wayne Woody
Capital Committee	Michael R. Buchanan	Wesley E. Cantrell  William H. Keogler, Jr.  Donald S. Moss
Conflicts Committee	None	W. Wayne Woody Michael R. Buchanan  Wesley E. Cantrell  William H. Keogler, Jr.  Donald S. Moss  W. Wayne Woody

\* Audit committee financial expert.

**The Audit Committee**

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Our board of directors has established a separately designated standing audit committee established in accordance with Section 3(a)(58)(A) of the Exchange Act. The members of the Audit Committee are Messrs. Woody, Buchanan, Cantrell, Keogler and Moss. Each member of the audit committee meets the independence, experience, financial literacy and expertise requirements of the NYSE, the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002, the Exchange Act, and applicable rules and regulations of the SEC, all as in effect from time to time. The board of directors has determined that Mr. Woody satisfies the requirements for an audit committee financial expert as defined by the rules and regulations of the SEC, and has designated Mr. Woody as our audit committee financial expert.

The audit committee operates pursuant to a written charter adopted by our board of directors, a copy of which is available on our website at [www.piedmontreit.com](http://www.piedmontreit.com). The primary responsibilities of the audit committee, as set forth in the committee's charter, include the following:

assisting the board of directors in the oversight of (1) the integrity of our financial statements; (2) our compliance with legal and regulatory requirements; (3) the qualification, independence and performance of our independent auditors; and (4) the performance of our internal audit function;

assisting our board of directors in fulfilling its oversight responsibilities by reviewing the financial information to be provided to the stockholders and others, the system of internal control over financial reporting which our management has established, and our audit and financial reporting process;

maintaining a free and open means of communication among our independent auditors, accountants, financial and senior management, our internal audit department and our board of directors;

reviewing and discussing with management and the independent auditor our annual audited financial statements, and, based upon such discussions, recommending to the board of directors that our audited financial statements be included in our annual report on Form 10-K;

reviewing and discussing with management and the independent auditor our quarterly financial statements and each of our quarterly reports on Form 10-Q;

preparing an audit committee report for inclusion in our annual Proxy Statements for our annual stockholder meetings;

appointing, compensating, overseeing, retaining, discharging and replacing our independent auditor; and

pre-approving all auditing services, and all permitted non-audit services, performed for us by the independent auditor. During 2006, the Audit Committee held nine meetings.

### **The Compensation Committee**

The board of directors has established a separately designated compensation committee. Prior to the Internalization, the primary function of our compensation committee was to administer the granting of stock options to selected employees of Wells Capital and Wells Management, our historical external advisors, based upon recommendations from management of these entities, and to set the terms and conditions of any such options in accordance with our 2000 employee stock option plan; however, no employee stock options were ever issued under our 2000 employee stock option plan, and subsequent to the adoption of our 2007 Omnibus Incentive Plan, our board terminated our 2000 employee stock option plan. On January 22, 2007, our board reconstituted our compensation committee and appointed our current, which is comprised of five independent directors, Messrs. Moss (Chairman), Buchanan, Cantrell, Keogler and Woody. The members of the Compensation Committee are all independent directors and, while our shares are not currently listed for trading on any national securities exchange, such independent directors meet the current independence and experience requirements of the NYSE and applicable rules and regulations of the SEC. For additional information about the Compensation Committee's processes and the role of executive officers and compensation consultants in determining compensation, see Compensation Discussion and Analysis. Pursuant to the compensation committee's written charter, adopted on August 6, 2007, a copy of which is available on our website at [www.piedmontreit.com](http://www.piedmontreit.com), its primary responsibilities include:

reviewing and approving corporate goals and objectives relevant to the compensation of our Chief Executive Officer;

evaluating the Chief Executive Officer's performance in light of those goals and objectives and, either as a committee or together with the other independent directors, determining and approving the Chief Executive Officer's compensation based on this evaluation;

making recommendations to our board with respect to the compensation of other executive officers, and incentive-compensation and equity-based plans and awards to our executive officers and other employees;

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administering our 2007 Omnibus Incentive Plan;

overseeing and assisting in preparing the Compensation Discussion and Analysis for inclusion in our Proxy Statement and/or annual report on Form 10-K;



providing for the inclusion in our Proxy Statement of a description of the processes and procedures for the consideration and determination of executive and director compensation; and

preparing a compensation committee report, as required by applicable SEC regulations, to be included in our Proxy Statements and/or annual report on Form 10-K.

Our Compensation Committee did not meet during 2006.

### **The Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee**

Our board of directors has established a separately designated nominating and corporate governance committee, which is comprised of five independent directors, Messrs. Moss (Chairman), Buchanan, Cantrell, Keogler and Woody. The members of the Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee are all independent directors and, while our shares are not currently listed for trading on any national securities exchange, such independent directors meet the current independence and experience requirements of the NYSE and applicable rules and regulations of the SEC. The nominating and corporate governance committee operates pursuant to a written charter adopted by our board of directors, a copy of which is available on our website at [www.piedmontreit.com](http://www.piedmontreit.com). The primary responsibilities of the nominating and corporate governance committee, as set forth in the committee's charter include:

identifying individuals qualified to serve on the board of directors, consistent with criteria approved by the board of directors, and recommending that the board of directors select a slate of director nominees for election by our stockholders at the annual meeting of our stockholders;

developing and implementing the process necessary to identify prospective members of our board of directors;

determining the advisability of retaining any search firm or consultant to assist in the identification and evaluation of candidates for membership on the board of directors;

overseeing an annual evaluation of the board of directors, each of the committees of the board and management;

developing and recommending to our board of directors a set of corporate governance principles and policies; and

periodically reviewing our corporate governance structures and procedures and suggesting improvements thereto to our board of directors.

During 2006, the Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee held five meetings.

### ***Board Membership Criteria***

The Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee annually reviews with the board of directors the appropriate experience, skills and characteristics required of board members in the context of the current membership of the board. This assessment includes, in the context of the perceived needs of the board at that time, issues of knowledge, experience, judgment and skills such as an understanding of the real estate industry or brokerage industry or accounting or financial management expertise. Other considerations include the candidate's independence from conflict with Piedmont REIT and the ability of the candidate to attend board meetings regularly and to devote an appropriate amount of effort in preparation for those meetings. The term "independence" means that the candidate meets the definition of "independent director" contained in Piedmont REIT's charter and the current independence and experience requirements of the NYSE and applicable rules and regulations of the SEC. It also is expected that independent directors nominated by the board of directors shall be individuals who possess a reputation and hold positions or affiliations befitting a director of a large publicly held company and are actively engaged in their occupations or professions or are otherwise regularly involved in the business, professional or academic community. Moreover, as required by Section 2.2 of Piedmont REIT's charter, at least one director who is not an independent director must have at least three years of relevant experience demonstrating the knowledge and experience required to successfully acquire and manage the type of assets we acquire and manage, and at least one of our

independent directors must have at least three years of relevant real estate experience.

### ***Selection of Directors***

The board of directors is responsible for selecting its own nominees and recommending them for election by the stockholders. The board delegates the screening process necessary to identify qualified candidates to the Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee, in consultation with the Chief Executive Officer. Pursuant to Section 2.1 of Piedmont REIT's charter, however, the independent directors must nominate replacements for any vacancies among the independent director positions.

The Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee annually reviews director suitability and the continuing composition of the board of directors; it then recommends director nominees who are voted on by the full board of directors. All director nominees then stand for election by the stockholders annually.

In recommending director nominees to the board of directors, the Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee solicits candidate recommendations from its own members, other directors and members of our management. The Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee may engage the services of a search firm to assist in identifying potential director nominees. The Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee will also consider recommendations made by stockholders and other interested persons for director nominees who meet the established director criteria set forth above. In order for a stockholder to make a nomination, the stockholder must satisfy the procedural requirements for such nomination as provided in Article II, Section 12 of our Bylaws. Any stockholder may request a copy of our Bylaws free of charge by calling our investor services department at 1-800-557-4830.

In evaluating the persons nominated as potential directors, the Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee will consider each candidate without regard to the source of the recommendation and take into account those factors that the Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee determines are relevant.

In addition, in connection with our Internalization, Leo F. Wells, III, our former President, director and Chairman of the board of directors, agreed that he would resign as a director upon a listing of our common shares on a national securities exchange, unless a majority of certain designated independent directors determined that it was in our best interest that he remain a director, and Mr. Wells subsequently resigned from our board of directors. At the time of such resignation and for a period ending on the earlier of (1) two years following the listing or (2) such time as Mr. Wells is no longer the beneficial owner of at least 1% of our outstanding common stock, Mr. Wells has the right to nominate an individual to be appointed to fill the vacancy created by his resignation, which individual would be nominated for election to our board at a meeting of our stockholders held for the purpose of electing directors during such period, provided that such individual is reasonably acceptable to the board and is not on the board of directors of any entity related to Wells REF that competes with us or any of our subsidiaries. Mr. Wells resigned from our board of directors on May 9, 2007 and nominated Mr. Cantrell to fill the resulting vacancy. The remaining directors reviewed Mr. Cantrell's professional experience, particularly his independence and his public company experience and voted to approve Mr. Cantrell to the board of directors, in accordance with our charter, effective May 9, 2007.

### **The Capital Committee**

Our board of directors has established a capital committee, which is comprised of five independent directors, Messrs. Buchanan (Chairman), Cantrell, Keogler, Moss and Woody. The primary responsibilities of the capital committee, include:

reviewing and advising the board of directors on our overall financial performance, including issues related to capital structure, operating earnings, dividends and budgetary and reporting processes; and

reviewing and advising the board of directors on investment criteria and acquisition policies, general economic environment in various real estate markets, existing or prospective properties or tenants, and portfolio diversification goals.

### **The Conflicts Committee**

In connection with the Internalization, our board of directors established a conflicts committee, which is comprised of the five independent directors, Messrs. Buchanan, Cantrell, Keogler, Moss and Woody, to handle potential business related conflicts of interest that may arise relating to the continued economic interest of certain of our executive officers in an affiliate of our former advisor. The conflicts committee has the maximum power delegable to a committee under the Maryland General Corporation Law (the "MGCL") and is authorized to select and retain its own legal and financial advisors. The conflicts committee may act on any matter permitted by the MGCL if the Committee's minutes reflect that it has made a determination that the matter at issue is such that the exercise of independent judgment by any of our directors (who is not an independent director) could reasonably be compromised.



### **Other Board Matters**

Our board of directors met 16 times during 2006, and each member of the board of directors attended in excess of 75% of the board and committee meetings on which such director served that were held during 2006.

We expect all of the members of our board of directors to attend our 2007 annual meeting of stockholders. In 2006, all of the members of our board of directors attended the annual meeting of stockholders.

### **Communications with Stockholders**

We have established several means for stockholders to communicate their concerns to the board of directors. If the concern relates to our financial statements, accounting practices or internal controls, the concerns should be submitted in writing to the Chairman of our Audit Committee in care of our Secretary at our headquarters address. If the concern relates to our governance practices, business ethics or corporate conduct, the concern may be submitted in writing to the Chairman of our Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee in care of our Secretary at our headquarters address. If a stockholder is uncertain as to which category his or her concern relates, he or she may communicate it to any one of the independent directors in care of our Secretary at our headquarters address.

### **Director Independence**

A majority of the members of our board of directors, and all of the members of the audit committee, the compensation committee, the nominating and corporate governance committee, and the capital committee are independent as such term is defined by the NYSE and as affirmatively determined by our board of directors. Pursuant to our corporate governance guidelines and the NYSE's listing standards, for a director to be deemed independent, in addition to satisfying certain bright-line criteria, the board of directors must affirmatively determine that a director has no material relationship with us (either directly or as a partner, stockholder or officer of an organization that has a relationship with us). After broadly considering all relevant facts and circumstances, the board of directors has affirmatively determined that Messrs. Buchanan, Cantrell, Keogler, Moss and Woody satisfy the bright-line criteria and that none has a relationship (material or otherwise) with us that would interfere with such person's ability to exercise independent judgment as a member of the board. None of these directors has ever served as (or is related to) an employee of our company or any of our predecessors or acquired companies, or received any compensation from us or any such other entities except for compensation directly related to service as a director. Therefore, our board of directors affirmatively determined that Messrs. Buchanan, Cantrell, Keogler, Moss and Woody are independent as such term is defined by the NYSE.

### **Corporate Governance Guidelines and Code of Ethics**

Our board of directors, upon the recommendation of the nominating and corporate governance committee, has adopted corporate governance guidelines establishing a common set of expectations to assist the board of directors in performing their responsibilities. The corporate governance policies and guidelines, which meet the requirements of the NYSE's listing standards, address a number of topics, including, among other things, director qualification standards, director responsibilities, the responsibilities and composition of the board committees, director access to management and independent advisers, director compensation, management succession and evaluations of the performance of the board. Our board of directors has also adopted a code of ethics, including a conflicts of interest policy that applies to all of our directors and executive officers. The Code of Ethics meets the requirements of a code of ethics as defined by the rules and regulations of the SEC. A copy of our corporate governance guidelines and our code of ethics is available on our website at [www.piedmontreit.com](http://www.piedmontreit.com).

## EXECUTIVE COMPENSATION

### Compensation Discussion and Analysis

#### *Overview*

This Compensation Discussion and Analysis explains our compensation philosophy, objectives, policies and practices with respect to our Chief Executive Officer, Chief Financial Officer and the other three most highly-compensated executive officers as determined in accordance with applicable SEC rules, which we collectively refer to as our named executive officers. Prior to entering into the employment agreement with our Chief Executive Officer effective February 2, 2007, all of our executive officers were employees of our former advisor or its affiliates and we did not pay, and were not involved in determining, compensation for any of these individuals. As a result, we did not pay any compensation to executives or employees during 2006. Accordingly, this Compensation Discussion and Analysis discusses our compensation objectives, policies and practices as determined and approved by the compensation committee, which was reconstituted on January 22, 2007. As a result of its recent reconstitution, the compensation committee has not yet determined and implemented all aspect of our executive compensation program. Because we did not pay any compensation to the named executive officers during 2006, the discussion below reflects executive compensation that we expect to pay to our named executive officers for 2007.

#### *Compensation Philosophy*

We seek to maintain a total compensation package that provides fair, reasonable and competitive compensation for executives while also permitting us the flexibility to differentiate actual pay based on the level of individual and organizational performance. We place significant emphasis on annual and long-term performance-based incentive compensation, including cash and equity-based incentives, which are designed to reward our executives based on the achievement of predetermined company and individual goals.

#### *Objectives of our Executive Compensation Programs*

Our compensation programs are designed to achieve the following objectives:

to attract and retain candidates capable of performing at the highest levels of our industry;

to create and maintain a performance-focused culture, by rewarding outstanding company and individual performance based upon objective predetermined metrics;

to reflect the qualifications, skills, experience and responsibilities of each named executive officer;

to link incentive compensation levels with the creation of stockholder value;

to align the interests of our executives and stockholders by creating opportunities and incentives for executives to increase their equity ownership in us; and

to motivate our executives to manage our business to meet and appropriately balance our short- and long-term objectives.

#### *Determination of Executive Compensation*

On November 7, 2006, our special committee, which was formed prior to our Internalization to evaluate and investigate our strategic alternatives, engaged the services of FPL Associates, L.P., a nationally recognized compensation consulting firm specializing in the real estate industry, to assist us in determining competitive executive compensation levels and the programs to implement. The reconstituted compensation committee has continued to work with FPL Associates to negotiate employment agreements with our executive officers, develop our time- and performance-based incentive compensation programs and establish our director compensation program. As part of FPL Associates' engagement, the special committee and the compensation committee directed FPL Associates to, among other things, provide competitive market

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compensation data and make recommendations for pay levels for each component of our executive compensation. FPL Associates has not been engaged by our executive officers to perform any work on their behalf and we consider FPL Associates to be an independent compensation consultant.

FPL Associates provided competitive market compensation data for a peer group consisting of 14 public REITs with a substantial office portfolio that are comparable in size to our company. The peer group consisted of the following:

Brandywine Realty Trust	HRPT Properties Trust
Corporate Office Properties Trust	Kilroy Realty Corporation
Cousins Properties Incorporated	Lexington Corporate Properties Trust
Crescent Real Estate Equities Company	Mack-Cali Realty Corporation
Douglas Emmett, Inc.	Maguire Properties, Inc.
Duke Realty Corporation	Reckson Associates Realty Corporation
Highwoods Properties, Inc.	SL Green Realty Corp.

Using market data and information we received from FPL Associates, we entered into an employment agreement with Donald A. Miller, CFA, our Chief Executive Officer, prior to our Internalization. Following the consummation of the Internalization, we also entered into employment agreements with each of our other named executive officers. These agreements generally established the base salaries and target annual cash bonuses for our named executive officers. In establishing the amounts in these agreements, we generally targeted the median of the competitive market based on the peer groups described above, but also took into account other factors including, among others, the individual experience and skills of, and expected contributions from, the named executive officers, the executives' historical compensation with our former advisor, and our negotiations with each of the named executives. For a more detailed discussion of the employment agreements with each of our named executive officers, see "Employment Agreements" below.

Prior to our Internalization, our board of directors and stockholders approved our 2007 Omnibus Incentive Plan. The plan was designed in consultation with FPL Associates in order to provide us with the flexibility to offer performance-based compensation, including stock-based and incentive cash awards, as part of an overall compensation package to attract, motivate and retain qualified personnel. Certain officers, key employees, non-employee directors, or consultants of ours and our subsidiaries will be eligible to be granted cash awards, stock options, stock appreciation rights, restricted stock, deferred stock awards, other stock-based awards, dividend equivalent rights, and performance-based awards under the 2007 Omnibus Incentive Plan at the discretion of our compensation committee. We anticipate that providing such persons with interests and awards of this nature will result in a closer alignment of their interests with our own interests and those of our stockholders, thereby motivating their efforts on our behalf and strengthening their desire to remain with us.

#### *The Role of Executive Officers in Compensation Decisions*

Our Chief Executive Officer consulted with the compensation committee regarding 2007 compensation levels for each of our named executive officers (except for himself) based on recommendations to our compensation committee provided by FPL Associates. Our Chief Executive Officer will annually review the performance of each of the other named executive officers. Based on this review, he will make compensation recommendations to the compensation committee, including recommendations for performance targets, salary adjustments, annual cash bonuses, and long-term equity-based incentive awards. In addition, our Chief Financial Officer will also annually assess the performance for our Chief Accounting Officer and other accounting personnel and make compensation recommendations to the compensation committee. Although the compensation committee considers these recommendations along with data provided by its other advisors, it retains full discretion to set all compensation.



*Elements of Executive Compensation*

**Base Salary.** Our compensation committee believes that payment of a competitive base salary is a necessary element of any compensation program that is designed to attract and retain talented and qualified executives. Subject to our existing contractual obligations, we expect our compensation committee to consider salary levels for our named executive officers annually as part of our performance review process as well as upon any promotion or other change in job responsibility. In connection with the hiring of our current executive officers and the negotiation and execution of their employment agreements, our compensation committee set the following base salaries for fiscal year 2007:

<b>Name and Principal Position</b>	<b>Salary(\$)</b>
Donald A. Miller, CFA Chief Executive Officer and President	600,000
Robert E. Bowers Chief Financial Officer, Executive Vice President, Treasurer and Secretary	400,000
Raymond L. Owens Executive Vice President Capital Markets	225,000
Carroll A. Reddic, IV Executive Vice President Real Estate Operations	225,000
Laura P. Moon Senior Vice President and Chief Accounting Officer	201,000

The goal of our base salary program is to provide salaries at a level that allows us to attract and retain qualified executives while preserving significant flexibility to recognize and reward individual performance with other elements of the overall compensation program. Base salary levels also affect the annual cash incentive compensation because each named executive officer's annual bonus target opportunity is expressed as a percentage of base salary. The following items are generally considered when determining base salary levels:

- market data provided by our outside consultants;
- our financial resources;
- the executive officer's experience, scope of responsibilities, performance and prospects; and
- internal equity in relation to other executive officers with similar levels of experience, scope of responsibilities, performance, and prospects.

**Annual Cash Incentive Compensation.** It is the intention of our compensation committee to make a meaningful portion of the executive's compensation in future years contingent on achieving certain performance targets and an executive's individual objectives in that year. Because we only recently closed the Internalization and hired our executive officers, cash incentive compensation for fiscal year 2007 for Messrs. Miller and Bowers will be determined by the compensation committee, in its discretion, at the end of the fiscal year. Cash incentive compensation for our other named executive officers will be determined by our Chief Executive Officer or Chief Financial Officer, in their discretion, as specified in the named executive's officer's employment agreement at the end of the fiscal year. For a description of the maximum target bonuses for each of our named executive officers, please see [Employment Agreements](#) below.

**Long-Term Incentives.** There are two primary components of our long-term equity incentive awards, each of which will be administered through our 2007 Omnibus Incentive Plan: a time-vested grant program and a performance-based grant program.

The objective of our time-vested stock grant program is to attract and retain qualified personnel by offering an equity-based program that is competitive with our peer companies. Our compensation committee believes that these time-vested awards were necessary to successfully attract qualified employees, including the named executive officers, from our former advisor and will continue to be an important incentive for promoting employee retention going forward. The initial awards under this plan were determined by the compensation committee, in consultation with FPL Associates and subsequently reviewed with the Chief Executive Officer (with respect to all awards except his own). Amounts of the initial time-vested awards were determined in part based upon an employee's duration of tenure with our former advisor and pay grade. The time-based stock grants are made in the form of deferred stock and will vest 25% upon the date of the grant and 25% per year on the following three anniversaries of the date of the grant.

The performance-based grant program is intended to implement our objective of promoting a performance-focused culture by rewarding employees, including named executive officers, based upon achievement of company and individual performance targets. When determining the quantity and amount of awards to be granted, the compensation committee assessed the same factors considered in setting base salary described above, but with a greater emphasis on performance measures we believe drive our long-term success. Future performance awards will be established and approved by our compensation committee and will be awarded based upon the achievement of performance goals predetermined at the beginning of the applicable period. These awards are subject to the same vesting schedule as our time-based stock grants described above.

We expect that the timing and terms of incentive compensation awards for named executive officers will be consistent with those of our other eligible employees.

To the extent we grant options in the future, the exercise price of each stock option awarded to our employees under our 2007 Omnibus Incentive Plan will be the fair market value of our stock on the date of grant, which is the date of the compensation committee meeting at which the equity award is determined, as specified in our 2007 Omnibus Incentive Plan. Scheduling decisions for compensation committee meetings are made without regard to anticipated earnings or other major announcements.

*Benefits.* All full-time employees, including our named executive officers, may participate in our health and welfare benefit programs, including medical, dental and vision care coverage, disability insurance and life insurance, and our 401(k) plan. We do not have any special benefits or retirement plans for our named executive officers.

*Severance.* Under their employment agreements, each of our named executive officers is entitled to receive severance payments under certain circumstances in the event that their employment is terminated. These circumstances and payments are described below under Potential Payments Upon Termination Or Change Of Control. Our compensation committee believes that the negotiation of these severance payments was an important factor in enticing the named executive officers to leave our former advisor.

#### *The Impact of Regulatory Requirements on Compensation*

Section 162(m) of the Code limits to \$1 million a publicly held company's tax deduction each year for compensation to any covered employee, except for certain qualifying performance-based compensation. Because of our structure, we do not believe we have any covered employees whose compensation is subject to the \$1 million deduction limit under Section 162(m). However, to the extent that compensation is required to and does not qualify for deduction under Section 162(m), because we qualify as a REIT under the Code and is not subject to federal income taxes, the payment of compensation that does not satisfy the requirements of Section 162(m) does not have a material adverse consequence to us, provided we continue to distribute 90% of our taxable income. A larger portion of stockholder distributions may be subject to federal income tax expense as dividend income rather than return of capital, and any such compensation allocated to our taxable REIT subsidiary whose income is subject to federal income tax would result in an increase in income taxes due to the inability to deduct such compensation. Although we and the Compensation Committee will be mindful of the limits imposed by Section 162(m), even if it is determined that Section 162(m) applies or may apply to certain compensation packages, we nevertheless reserve the right to structure compensation packages and awards in a manner that may exceed the limitation on deduction imposed by Section 162(m).

#### *Summary of Executive Compensation*

During the fiscal year ended December 31, 2006, all of our executive officers were employees or consultants of our former advisor or its affiliates and we did not pay, and were not involved in determining, any of these individuals' compensation, including the compensation of Leo F. Wells, III, our former President, Douglas P. Williams, our former Executive Vice President, Treasurer and Secretary, and Randall D. Fretz, our former Senior Vice President. For information regarding the fees paid to our former advisor, see Certain Relationships and Related Transactions Affiliated Companies Prior to our Internalization.

#### *Employment Agreements*

Each of the named executive officers' employment agreements contain provisions relating to severance payments and other benefits upon certain terminations. For a discussion of these provisions, see Potential Payments Upon Termination or Change of Control below.

#### *Mr. Miller*

On February 2, 2007, we entered into an employment agreement with Donald A. Miller, CFA, to act as our Chief Executive Officer and President. The agreement provides that, subject to the discretion of our board of directors' nominating and corporate governance committee and the vote of our stockholders, Mr. Miller will also serve as a member of our board of directors. The agreement took effect on February 2, 2007 and the initial employment period will end on December 31, 2009, unless terminated earlier in accordance with the agreement's termination provisions. The agreement will automatically extend for successive one-year periods, unless Mr. Miller or we give 90 days written notice prior to the end of the initial term or any renewal term, or his employment otherwise terminates in accordance with the terms of the agreement.

The agreement provides for an initial annual base salary of \$600,000, an initial \$200,000 bonus payable within 15 days of execution of the agreement (which was paid to Mr. Miller on February 16, 2007), and an annual target cash bonus in the first year of \$400,000 based on certain criteria to be agreed to by Mr. Miller and our compensation committee. In addition, beginning in 2008, Mr. Miller will be eligible to earn an annual cash bonus of up to 175% of his annual base salary based on satisfying performance criteria determined by our compensation committee. Mr. Miller will also be eligible to participate in our 2007 Omnibus Incentive Plan, as determined in the discretion of our compensation committee.

*Mr. Bowers*

On April 16, 2007, we entered into an employment agreement with Robert E. Bowers to act as our Chief Financial Officer. The agreement took effect on April 16, 2007 and the initial employment period will end on December 31, 2009, unless terminated earlier in accordance with the agreement's termination provisions. The agreement will automatically extend for successive one-year periods, unless Mr. Bowers or we give 90 days written notice prior to the end of the initial term or any renewal term, or his employment otherwise terminates in accordance with the terms of the agreement.

The agreement provides for an initial annual base salary of \$400,000 and an annual target cash bonus in the first year of \$320,000 (pro-rated over the 2007 calendar year) based on certain criteria agreed to by Mr. Bowers and by our compensation committee. In addition, beginning in 2008, Mr. Bowers will be eligible to earn an annual cash bonus of up to 120% of his annual base salary based on satisfying performance criteria determined by our compensation committee. Mr. Bowers will also be eligible to participate in our 2007 Omnibus Incentive Plan, as determined in the discretion of our compensation committee.

*Other Named Executive Officers*

On May 14, 2007, we entered into employment agreements with Carroll A. Reddic, IV, Raymond L. Owens and Laura P. Moon. Under the agreements, Mr. Reddic serves as our Executive Vice President Real Estate Operations, Mr. Owens serves as our Executive Vice President Capital Markets, and Ms. Moon serves as our Senior Vice President and Chief Accounting Officer. These agreements each took effect on May 14, 2007 and the initial employment period under each agreement will end on December 31, 2009, unless the executive's employment is terminated earlier in accordance with the applicable termination provisions of the agreements. Each of these agreements will automatically extend for successive one-year periods, unless the executive or we give 90 days written notice prior to the end of the initial term or any renewal term, or his or her employment otherwise terminates in accordance with the terms of the agreement. The agreements provide for the following compensation:

with respect to Messrs. Reddic and Owens, an annual base salary of \$225,000 and a target cash bonus in the first year of up to 105% of his pro-rated base salary; and

with respect to Ms. Moon, an annual base salary of \$201,020 and a target cash bonus in the first year of up to 75% of her pro-rated base salary.

The annual target cash bonuses will be based on criteria agreed to by the executives and by our Chief Executive Officer. In addition, beginning in 2008, Messrs. Reddic and Owens will be eligible to earn an annual cash bonus of up to 105% of their respective base salaries based on satisfying performance criteria determined by our Chief Executive Officer. Beginning in 2008, Ms. Moon will be eligible to earn an annual cash bonus of up to 75% of her annual base salary based on satisfying performance criteria determined by the Chief Executive Officer. The executives will also be eligible to participate in our 2007 Omnibus Incentive Plan, as determined in the discretion of our compensation committee.

***Potential Payments upon Termination or Change of Control***

The employment agreements with our named executive officers provide that upon termination of employment either by us without cause or by the executive for good reason (each as generally defined below), the executive will be entitled to the following severance payments and benefits:

With respect to Messrs. Miller and Bowers:

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any unpaid annual salary that has accrued, payment for unused vacation, any earned but unpaid annual bonus for the previous year, unreimbursed expenses, and any rights granted to him pursuant to our 2007 Omnibus Incentive Plan (all of which we collectively refer to as "Accrued Benefits");

a pro-rated annual bonus for the then-current year, and upon execution of a release of any claims by him, an amount equal to two times the sum of (1) his annual salary then in effect, and (2) the average of his annual bonus for the three years prior to the year of termination; and

two years of continuing medical benefits for the executive and the executive's spouse and eligible dependents.

With respect to Mr. Reddic, Mr. Owens and Ms. Moon:

any Accrued Benefits;

a pro-rated annual bonus for the then-current year, and upon execution of a release of any claims by the executive, an amount equal to the sum of (1) the executive's annual salary then in effect, and (2) the average of the executive's annual bonus for the three years prior to the year of termination; and

one year of continuing medical benefits for the executive and the executive's spouse and eligible dependents.

Pursuant to the employment agreements, *cause* means any of the following:

any material act or material omission by the executive which constitutes intentional misconduct in connection with our business or relating to the executive's duties or a willful violation of law in connection with our or relating to the executive's duties;

an act of fraud, conversion, misappropriation or embezzlement by the executive of our assets or business or assets in our possession or control;

conviction of, indictment for or entering a guilty plea or plea of no contest with respect to a felony, or any crime involving any moral turpitude with respect to which imprisonment is a common punishment;

any act of dishonesty committed by the executive in connection with our business or relating to the executive's duties;

the willful neglect of material duties of the executive or gross misconduct by the executive;

the use of illegal drugs or excessive use of alcohol to the extent that any of such uses, in the board of directors' good faith determination, materially interferes with the performance of the executive's duties;

any other failure (other than any failure resulting from incapacity due to physical or mental illness) by the executive to perform his material and reasonable duties and responsibilities as an employee, director or consultant; or

any breach of the affirmative covenants made by the executive under the agreement; any of which continues without cure, if curable, reasonably satisfactory to the board of directors within ten days following written notice from us (except in the case of a willful failure to perform his or her duties or a willful breach, which shall require no notice or allow no such cure right).

Subject to certain cure rights available to us, *good reason* shall be present where the executive gives notice to the board of directors of his or her voluntary resignation following either:

our failure to pay or cause to be paid the executive's base salary or annual bonus when due;

a material diminution in the executive's status, including, title, position, duties, authority or responsibility;

a material adverse change in the criteria to be applied with respect to the executive's target annual bonus for fiscal year 2009 and subsequent fiscal years as compared to the prior fiscal year (unless Executive has consented to such criteria) or our failure to adopt performance criteria reasonably acceptable to the executive with respect to fiscal year 2008;

the relocation of our executive offices to a location outside of the Atlanta, Georgia metropolitan area without the consent of the executive;

our failure to provide the executive with awards under the 2007 Omnibus Incentive Plan that are reasonably and generally comparable to awards granted to our other executive officers under the plan;

the occurrence of a change of control of the company; or

solely with respect to Mr. Miller, the failure of the board of directors (or its Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee) to nominate Mr. Miller to the board of directors.

If we notify the executive that we are not renewing the initial term of the employment agreement, or any renewal term, and the executive's employment thereafter terminates as a result of the expiration of the term, the executive is entitled to receive the following severance payments and benefits:

With respect to Mr. Miller and Mr. Bowers:

any Accrued Benefits;

a pro-rated annual bonus for the then-current year, and upon execution of a release of any claims by him, an amount equal to two times the sum of (1) his annual salary, and (2) the average of his annual bonus for the three years prior to the year of termination; and

one year of continuing medical benefits for the executive and the executive's spouse and eligible dependents.

With respect to Mr. Reddic, Mr. Owens and Ms. Moon, the same payments and benefits that would be payable upon a termination by us without cause or by the executive with good reason.

If the executive notifies us that he or she is not renewing the initial term of the employment agreement, or any renewal term, he or she is not entitled to receive any severance pay or benefits. If he or she continues to be employed by us after either of us give 90 days prior written notice of non-renewal, his or her employment will be at-will, and the agreement will terminate, except for certain surviving provisions.

If the executive's employment terminates upon his or her death or disability (which is defined in the agreements to mean physical or mental incapacity whereby the executive is unable with or without reasonable accommodation for a period of six consecutive months or for an aggregate of nine months in any twenty-four consecutive month period to perform the essential functions of the executive's duties) the following will occur:

With respect to Mr. Miller and Mr. Bowers:

his estate or legal representative is entitled to receive any Accrued Benefits and a pro-rated annual bonus for the then-current year; any grants made to the executive that are subject to a time-based vesting condition shall become vested;

his estate or legal representative, upon execution of a release, is entitled to an amount equal to two times the sum of (A) his annual salary then in effect and (B) the average of his annual bonus for the three years prior to the year of termination; and

one year of continuing medical benefits for the executive and/or the executive's spouse and eligible dependents.

With respect to Mr. Reddic, Mr. Owens and Ms. Moon:



his or her estate or legal representative is entitled to receive any Accrued Benefits and a pro-rated annual bonus for the then-current year;

any grants made to the executive that are subject to a time-based vesting condition shall become vested;

his or her estate or legal representative, upon execution of a release, is entitled to an amount equal to the sum of (A) the executive's annual salary then in effect and (B) the average of the executive's annual bonus for the three years prior to the year of termination; and

one year of continuing medical benefits for the executive and/or the executive's spouse and eligible dependents.

Under the employment agreements, if an executive resigns without good reason, or if we terminate an executive for cause, then such executive is only entitled to receive his or her Accrued Benefits.

In the event of a termination of employment resulting from a change of control event, the employment agreement with each of our named executive officers provides that such termination will be deemed a termination by the executive for good reason, and any previously issued equity grants subject to time-based vesting conditions will immediately become vested.

In addition, if Mr. Miller's employment is terminated as a result of a change of control event occurring prior to his receipt of an initial equity grant under our 2007 Omnibus Incentive Plan or otherwise in the amount of at least \$1.7 million, Mr. Miller will be entitled to receive an additional \$1.7 million payment. In the event that any portion of the \$1.7 million payment constitutes an excess parachute payment subject to an excise tax under the Code, we have agreed to pay Mr. Miller an amount equal to one-half of such excise tax.

The following table summarizes the potential cash payments and estimated equivalent cash value of benefits generally owed to the named executive officers under the terms of their employment agreements described above upon termination of those agreements under various scenarios. As the employment agreements for our named executive officers were entered into subsequent to December 31, 2006, all values have been calculated assuming a termination date of August 31, 2007.

Name	Change-in-Control			
	Without Cause/ For Good Reason <sup>(1)</sup>	(Termination Without Cause/ For Good Reason) <sup>(1)</sup>	Non-renewal by Us of Initial or Subsequent Term <sup>(1)</sup>	Death/ Disability <sup>(1)</sup>
Donald A. Miller, CFA	\$ 1,984,864 <sup>(2)</sup>	\$ 2,977,614 <sup>(2)(7)</sup>	\$ 1,970,287 <sup>(2)</sup>	\$ 1,921,826 <sup>(2)</sup>
Robert E. Bowers	\$ 1,275,450 <sup>(3)</sup>	\$ 1,275,450 <sup>(3)</sup>	\$ 1,260,884 <sup>(3)</sup>	\$ 1,228,576 <sup>(3)</sup>
Carroll A. Reddic, IV	\$ 430,249 <sup>(4)</sup>	\$ 430,249 <sup>(4)</sup>	\$ 430,249 <sup>(4)</sup>	\$ 412,076