

UNITED STATES
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION
Washington, D.C. 20549

FORM 10-K

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

For the fiscal year ended December 31, 2023

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

For the transition period from _____ to _____

Commission File Number: 001-39995



AFC GAMMA, INC.

(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

Maryland

85-1807125

(State or other jurisdiction of incorporation or organization)

(I.R.S. Employer Identification Number)

525 Okeechobee Blvd. , Suite 1650 , West Palm Beach , FL 33401

(Address of principal executive offices) (Zip Code)

(561) 510-2390

(Registrant's telephone number, including area code)

N/A

(Former name, former address and former fiscal year, if changed since last report)

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

Title of each class	Trading Symbol(s)	Name of each exchange on which registered
Common Stock, \$0.01 par value per share	AFCG	The Nasdaq Stock Market LLC

Securities registered pursuant to Section 12(g) of the Act: None

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

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

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

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant has submitted electronically every Interactive Data File required to be submitted pursuant to Rule 405 of Regulation S-T (§232.405 of this chapter) during the preceding 12 months (or for such shorter period that the registrant was required to submit such files). Yes ☒ No ☐

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

Large accelerated filer ☐ Accelerated filer ☐ Non-accelerated filer ☒ Smaller reporting company ☒ Emerging growth company ☒

If an emerging growth company, indicate by check mark if the registrant has elected not to use the extended transition period for complying with any new or revised financial accounting standards provided pursuant to Section 13(a) of the Exchange Act. ☐

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant has filed a report on and attestation to its management assessment of the effectiveness of its internal controls over financial reporting under Section 404(b) of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act (15 U.S.C. 7262(b)) by the registered public accounting firm that

prepared or issued its audit report. o

If securities are registered pursuant to Section 12(b) of the Act, indicate by check mark whether the financial statements of the registrant included in the filing reflect the correction of an error to previously issued financial statements. o

Indicate by check mark whether any of those error corrections are restatements that required a recovery analysis of incentive-based compensation received by any of the registrant's executive officers during the relevant recovery period pursuant to (§240.10D-1(b)). o

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant is a shell company (as defined in Rule 12b-2 of the Exchange Act). Yes ☐ No ☒

The approximate aggregate market value of 15,803,332 shares of voting common stock held by non-affiliates of the registrant, as of June 30, 2023, based upon the last sale price reported on the Nasdaq Stock Market (the "Nasdaq") was \$ 196,751,483 . For purposes of the foregoing calculation only, all directors and executive officers of AFC Gamma, Inc. have been deemed affiliates.

Class	Outstanding at March 1, 2024
Common stock, \$0.01 par value per share	20,667,094

DOCUMENTS INCORPORATED BY REFERENCE

Portions of the registrant's definitive proxy statement for its 2024 Annual Meeting of Shareholders (to be filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission on or before April 29, 2024) are incorporated by reference into Part III of this Form 10-K.

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SPECIAL NOTE REGARDING FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS

This Annual Report on Form 10-K (this “Annual Report”), filed by AFC Gamma, Inc. (the “Company,” “we,” “us,” and “our”), and the information incorporated by reference in it, or made in other reports, filings with the SEC, press releases contain “forward-looking statements” within the meaning of the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995, Section 27A of the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, and Section 21E of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended, and we intend such statements to be covered by the safe harbor provisions contained therein. Some of the statements contained in this Annual Report, other than statements of current or historical facts, are forward-looking statements and are based on our current intent, belief, expectations and views of future events. The forward-looking statements include, without limitation, any statement that may predict, forecast, indicate or imply future results or performance, and may contain the words “believe,” “anticipate,” “expect,” “estimate,” “project,” “could,” “would,” “will,” “can,” “continuing,” “may,” “aim,” “intend,” “ongoing,” “plan,” “predict,” “potential,” “should,” “seeks,” “likely to” or words or phrases of similar meaning.

These statements are only predictions and involve estimates, known and unknown risks, assumptions, uncertainties and other factors that could cause our actual results, performance or achievements to be materially different from those expressed or implied by such forward-looking statements. Our actual results could differ materially from those anticipated in such forward-looking statements as a result of the factors discussed in *Item 1A. Risk Factors* and elsewhere in this Annual Report. We have based these forward-looking statements largely on our current expectations and projections about future events and financial trends that we believe may affect our financial condition, results of operations, business strategy and financial needs. Moreover, we operate in a rapidly evolving environment. New risk factors and uncertainties emerge from time to time, and it is not possible for our management to predict all the risk factors and uncertainties, nor can we assess the impact of all factors on our business or the extent to which any factor, or combination of factors, may cause actual results to differ materially from those contained in any forward-looking statements. We qualify all of our forward-looking statements by these cautionary statements. These forward-looking statements include, but are not limited to, statements about:

- our business and investment strategy;
- the ability of our Manager to locate suitable loan opportunities for us and to monitor and actively manage our portfolio and implement our investment strategy;
- our expectations for origination targets and repayments;
- the allocation of loan opportunities to us by our Manager;
- our projected operating results;
- actions and initiatives of the U.S. or state governments and changes to government policies and the execution and impact of these actions, initiatives and policies, including the fact that cannabis remains illegal under federal law and certain state laws;
- the estimated growth in and evolving market dynamics of the cannabis market;
- changes in general economic conditions, in our industry and in the commercial finance and real estate markets;
- the demand for cannabis cultivation and processing facilities;
- shifts in public opinion and state regulation regarding cannabis;
- the state of the U.S. economy generally or in specific geographic regions;
- the impact of a protracted decline in the liquidity of credit markets on our business;
- the amount, collectability and timing of our cash flows, if any, from our loans;
- our ability to obtain and maintain financing arrangements;
- our expected leverage;
- changes in the value of our loans;
- losses that may arise due to the concentration of our portfolio in a limited number of loans and borrowers;
- our expected investment and underwriting process;
- the rates of default or recovery rates on our loans;
- the degree to which our hedging strategies may or may not protect us from interest rate volatility;

- the availability of investment opportunities in mortgage-related and real estate-related instruments and other securities;
- changes in interest rates and impacts of such changes on our results of operations, cash flows and the market value of our loans;
- interest rate mismatches between our loans and our borrowings used to fund such loans;
- the departure of any of the executive officers or key personnel supporting and assisting us from our Manager or its affiliates;
- impact of and changes in governmental regulations, tax law and rates, accounting guidance and similar matters;
- our ability to maintain our exemption from registration under the Investment Company Act (as defined below);
- our ability to qualify and maintain our qualification as a REIT for U.S. federal income tax purposes;
- estimates relating to our ability to make distributions to our shareholders in the future;
- our understanding of our competition;
- market trends in our industry, interest rates, real estate values, the securities markets or the general economy;
- our ability to complete the Spin-Off (as defined below) in a timely manner or at all; and
- we may not achieve some or all of the expected benefits of the Spin-Off (as defined below).

You should not rely upon forward-looking statements as predictions of future events. The forward-looking statements made in this Annual Report relate only to events or information available to us as of the date of this Annual Report. Except as required by law, we undertake no obligation to update or revise any forward-looking statements, whether as a result of new information, future events or otherwise.

PART I

Item 1. Business

The following description of the business of AFC Gamma, Inc. should be read in conjunction with the information included elsewhere in this Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2023. Unless the context otherwise requires, the terms “we,” “us” or “our” refers to AFC Gamma, Inc.

Overview

AFC Gamma, Inc. is an institutional lender to the commercial real estate sector that was founded in July 2020 by a veteran team of investment professionals. We primarily originate, structure, underwrite, invest in and manage senior secured loans and other types of commercial real estate loans and debt securities, with a specialization in loans to cannabis industry operators in states that have legalized medical and/or adult-use cannabis. We have recently expanded our investment guidelines to deploy capital in attractive lending opportunities secured by commercial real estate. Our expanded investment guidelines now include (i) first and second lien loans secured by mortgages to commercial real estate owners, operators and related businesses that are not related to the cannabis industry, (ii) the ownership of non-cannabis related real property assets, and (iii) mortgage-backed securities, in addition to our prior sole focus on first lien loans secured by mortgages to cannabis operators in states that have legalized medical and/or adult use cannabis. We expect the underwriting and investment process for these investments under our expanded guidelines to be substantially similar to the process we deploy for our loans to cannabis operators.

Our objective is to provide attractive risk-adjusted returns over time through cash distributions and capital appreciation primarily by providing loans to real estate developers and state law compliant cannabis companies. The loans we originate are primarily structured as senior loans secured by real estate, equipment, value associated with licenses (where applicable) and/or other assets of the loan parties to the extent permitted by applicable laws and the regulations governing such loan parties. Some of our cannabis-related borrowers have their equity securities listed for public trading on the Canadian Securities Exchange (“CSE”) in Canada and/or over-the-counter (“OTC”) in the United States.

We have expanded our investment guidelines to invest in attractive commercial real estate financing opportunities emerging from the current interest rate environment. As the U.S. Federal Reserve Board (the “Federal Reserve”) began to increase interest rates in the first quarter of 2022 and continued to do so through the third quarter of 2023 in an effort to curb rising inflation, we believe the higher interest rates and associated pressures have created an opportunity in real estate lending, where there is currently less capital available in the marketplace to finance real estate projects. As a result of these market dynamics, we have identified a number of opportunities to provide acquisition and construction financing for real estate owners, operators and related businesses at attractive rates and secured by valuable real estate collateral.

Separately, as states continue to legalize cannabis for medical and adult-use, an increasing number of companies operating in the cannabis industry need financing. Due to the current capital constrained cannabis market, which does not typically have access to traditional bank financing, we believe we continue to be well positioned to act as a prudent financing source to cannabis industry operators given our stringent underwriting criteria, size and scale of operations and institutional infrastructure.

We are a Maryland corporation and externally managed by AFC Management, LLC, a Delaware limited liability company (our “Manager”), pursuant to the terms of the Amended and Restated Management Agreement, dated January 14, 2021, by and between AFC Gamma, Inc. and AFC Management, LLC (as amended from time to time, the “Management Agreement”). We commenced operations on July 31, 2020 and completed our initial public offering (“IPO”) in March 2021.

We have elected to be taxed as a real estate investment trust (a “REIT”) under Section 856 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended (the “Code”), commencing with our taxable year ended December 31, 2020. We believe that we have qualified as a REIT and that our current and proposed method of operation will enable us to continue to qualify as a REIT. However, no assurances can be given that our beliefs or expectations will be fulfilled, since qualification as a REIT depends on us continuing to satisfy numerous asset, income and distribution tests, which in turn depends, in part, on our operating results and ability to obtain financing. We also intend to operate our business in a manner that will permit us to maintain our exemption from registration under the Investment Company Act of 1940 as amended (the “Investment Company Act”).

Our wholly-owned subsidiary, AFCG TRS1, LLC (“TRS1”), operates as a taxable REIT subsidiary (a “TRS”). TRS1 began operating in July 2021. Our wholly-owned subsidiary, Sunrise Realty Trust, Inc. (“SUNS”) (f/k/a CRE South LLC), was formed on August 28, 2023 and converted from a Delaware limited liability company to a Maryland corporation in February 2024. The financial statements of TRS1 and SUNS are consolidated within our consolidated financial statements.

We are an “emerging growth company,” as defined in the Jumpstart Our Business Startups Act (“JOBS Act”), and we are eligible to take advantage of certain exemptions from various reporting requirements that are applicable to other public companies that are not “emerging growth companies” including, but not limited to, not being required to comply with the auditor attestation requirements of Section 404 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act, reduced disclosure obligations regarding executive compensation in our periodic reports and proxy statements, and exemptions from the requirements of holding a non-binding advisory vote on executive compensation and shareholder approval of any golden parachute payments not previously approved. In addition, Section 107 of the JOBS Act also provides that an “emerging growth company” can take advantage of the extended transition period provided in Section 7(a)(2)(B) of the Securities Act for complying with new or revised accounting standards. In other words, an “emerging growth company” can delay the adoption of certain accounting standards until those standards would otherwise apply to private companies. We have elected to take advantage of the extended transition period to comply with new or revised accounting standards and to adopt certain of the reduced disclosure requirements available to emerging growth companies. As a result of the accounting standards election, we will not be subject to the same implementation timing for new or revised accounting standards as other public companies that are not emerging growth companies which may make comparison of our financials to those of other public companies more difficult.

We could remain an “emerging growth company” for up to five years from our initial public offering, or until the earliest of (i) the last day of the first fiscal year in which our annual gross revenues exceed \$1.235 billion, (ii) the date that we become a “large accelerated filer” as defined in Rule 12b-2 under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended, which would occur if the market value of our common stock that is held by non-affiliates exceeds \$700.0 million as of the last business day of our most recently completed second fiscal quarter, or (iii) the date on which we have issued more than \$1.0 billion in non-convertible debt during the preceding three-year period.

Spin-Off

On February 22, 2024, we announced that our Board unanimously approved a plan to spin-off (the “Spin-Off”) our commercial real estate (“CRE”) portfolio into an independent, publicly traded REIT, named Sunrise Realty Trust, Inc. (“SUNS”).

The separation and the resulting Spin-Off is expected to be implemented in two steps. First, we expect to contribute, and SUNS expects to accept and assume, all of the assets, liabilities and business related to our CRE lending business not related to our business of structuring, underwriting, origination and investing in loans to and debt securities of cannabis industry operators, as currently conducted by SUNS, including the operations, properties, services and activities of such business (the “Contribution”), to the extent such assets, liabilities and business are not already held at SUNS. Then, we plan to distribute all of the outstanding shares of SUNS common stock (“SUNS Common Stock”) on the distribution date to our stockholders as of the record date on a pro rata basis. We and SUNS expect that \$115 million of assets in the aggregate, in a combination of loans and cash, will either be contributed to SUNS in the Contribution or be held by SUNS immediately following the Contribution. Following the distribution, we and SUNS expect the SUNS Common Stock to be listed on the Nasdaq Capital Market. SUNS has filed a registration statement on Form 10 with the Securities and Exchange Commission which provides additional details about the Spin-Off.

While SUNS will be an independent publicly-traded company, operating the Spin-Off Business separately from AFC Gamma, various individuals will serve as executive officers and directors of both companies. For example, Leonard Tannenbaum, our Chief Investment Officer and Executive Chairman of the Board, is expected to be the Executive Chairman, Brandon Hetzel, our Chief Financial Officer and Treasurer, is expected to be the Chief Financial Officer and Treasurer and Robyn Tannenbaum, our President, is expected to be the President of both entities immediately following the completion of the Spin-Off. Additionally, Alexander Frank, one of our directors, is expected to serve on the board of directors of both companies immediately following the completion of the Spin-Off.

Our Competitive Strengths

We are situated to originate loans with attractive risk-adjusted returns secured by valuable real property as traditional bank and institutional lenders are limiting commercial real estate lending activity in the current interest rate environment. We believe we are well positioned to continue as a prudent financing source to commercial real estate owners, operators and related businesses due to the following factors:

Experienced Management Team: Our Manager administers our business activities and day-to-day operations subject to the overall supervision of our Board of Directors (the “Board”). Our Manager’s team is comprised of professionals with extensive and diverse expertise and significant financing experience across many industries, including the real estate sector. We believe that the length and breadth of this team’s financing experience and their ability to source and execute a wide variety of loans is one of our significant competitive advantages.

Flexible Structure: We believe we have a more flexible funding structure, with the ability to redeploy capital more quickly than the typical REIT land ownership models and traditional lenders. Our funding structure commits and funds loans with an average maturity of two to five years with significant prepayment protections whereas certain competitors with typical REIT land ownership models have longer-term leases. The duration of our loans, as compared to the length of leases usually employed by REIT land ownership models, allows us to redeploy our capital with more flexibility as market changes occur instead of being locked in for longer periods of time. This model also allows our borrowers to retain control of their real estate assets, which is important to their businesses and allows for more flexibility regarding their capital structure.

Compelling Risk-Adjusted Returns: We seek to obtain strong risk-adjusted yield-to-maturity (“YTM”) with targeted annual gross yields on our portfolio within the range of 12% to 20% through coupons, original issue discount (“OID”), prepayment or exit fees, and other fees.

Underlying Collateral: Our loans are primarily secured by real property and certain personal property, including by the value associated with licenses (where applicable), equipment, and other assets to the extent permitted by applicable laws, and the regulations governing our borrowers and our intention to qualify as a REIT. As of December 31, 2023, our portfolio of assets held outside of TRS1 had a weighted average real estate collateral coverage of approximately 1.0 times our aggregate committed principal amount of such loans, with the real estate collateral coverage for each of our loans measured as of the time of closing for such loan and based on various sources of data available at such time.

Leading loan origination platform in high-growth cannabis market with extensive barriers to entry : Through our size and scale of operations, as well as our incumbency and institutional infrastructure, we believe we are well positioned to continue as a leading financing source of choice for cannabis companies. Currently, we are able to take advantage of the capital supply/demand imbalance to generate strong risk-adjusted returns by providing operators debt capital. Based on historical and projected growth, as states continue to legalize cannabis, the demand for capital to fund operations should increase and we believe we will be positioned to continue funding these borrowers both as a relationship lender and institutional capital provider to an expanding universe of operators.

Significant Management Investment: Leonard M. Tannenbaum, our Chief Investment Officer and Executive Chairman of the Board, made an equity investment of approximately \$47.8 million in August 2020, which included a combination of cash and a transfer of loan assets at fair value plus accrued and unpaid interest, in exchange for 3,342,500 shares of our common stock.

Our Portfolio

For information about our investment portfolio, see "Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations-Investment Portfolio" and the notes to our consolidated financial statements included in this Annual Report.

Collateral Overview

Our loans are secured by various types of assets of our borrowers, including real property and certain personal property, such as the value associated with licenses (where applicable), equipment, and other assets to the extent permitted by applicable laws and the regulations governing our borrowers.

With respect to our loans to cannabis operators, we do not have liens on cannabis inventory and are generally restricted from taking ownership of state licenses by current statutory prohibitions and exchange listing standards. The documents governing our loans also include a variety of provisions intended to provide remedies against the value associated with licenses. For example, some loan documents require a grant of a security interest in all property of the entities holding licenses to the extent not prohibited by applicable law or regulations (or requiring regulatory approval), equity pledges of entities holding licenses, receivership remedies and/or other remedies to secure the value associated with the borrowers' licenses. Upon default of a loan, we may seek to sell the loan to a third party or have an affiliate or a third party work with the borrower to have the borrower sell collateral securing the loan to a third party or institute a foreclosure proceeding to have such collateral sold, in each case, to generate funds towards the payoff of the loan. While we believe that the appraised value of any real estate assets or other collateral securing our loans may impact the amount of the recovery in each such scenario, the amount of any such recovery from the sale of such real estate or other collateral may be less than the appraised value of such collateral and the sale of such collateral may not be sufficient to pay off the remaining balance on the defaulted loan. Becoming the holder of a license through foreclosure or otherwise, the sale of a license or other realization of the value of licenses requires the approval of regulatory authorities. As of December 31, 2023, our portfolio of assets held outside of TRS1 had a weighted average real estate collateral coverage of approximately 1.0 times our aggregate committed principal amount of such loans, with the real estate collateral coverage for each of our loans measured as of the time of closing for such loan and based on various sources of data available at such time. We calculate our weighted average real estate collateral coverage by estimating the underlying value of our real estate collateral based on various objective and subjective factors, including, without limitation, third-party appraisals, total cost basis of the subject property and/or our own internal estimates.

We may pursue a sale of a defaulted loan if we believe that a sale would yield higher proceeds or that a sale could be accomplished more quickly than a foreclosure proceeding while yielding proceeds comparable to what would be expected from a foreclosure sale. To the extent that we determine that the proceeds are more likely to be maximized through instituting a foreclosure sale or through taking title to the underlying collateral, we will be subject to the rules and regulations under state law that govern foreclosure sales and Nasdaq listing standards that do not permit us to take title to real estate while it is involved in commercial sales of cannabis. In addition, even for loans to cannabis operations, the sale of the collateral securing our loans may be difficult and may be sold to a party outside of the cannabis industry. Therefore, any appraisal-based value of our real estate and other collateral may not equal the value of such collateral if it were to be sold to a third-party in a foreclosure or similar proceeding. We may seek to sell a defaulted loan prior to commencing a foreclosure proceeding or during a foreclosure proceeding to a purchaser that is not required to comply with Nasdaq listing standards. We believe a third-party purchaser that is not subject to Nasdaq listing standards may be able to realize greater value from real estate and other collateral securing our loans with respect to loans to cannabis operators. However, we can provide no assurances that a third-party would buy such loans or that the sales price of such loans would be sufficient to recover the outstanding principal balance, accrued interest, and fees. We will not own real estate as long as it is used in the commercial sale of cannabis due to current statutory prohibitions and exchange listing standards, which may delay or limit our remedies in the event that any of our borrowers default under the terms of their loans with us.

Our Loan Origination Pipeline

As of March 1, 2024, our loan origination pipeline consisted of potential new loans to (i) commercial real estate owners, operators and related businesses representing prospective total loan commitments of approximately \$701 million and (ii) state law compliant cannabis operators representing prospective total loan commitments of approximately \$279 million. From January 1, 2020 to March 1, 2024, members of our management team, provided by our Manager, and the members of the investment committee of our Manager (the "Investment Committee"), who advise on our investments and operations, sourced over \$19.4 billion of loans across the cannabis industry in various states while maintaining a robust pipeline of potentially actionable opportunities. We are in various stages of our evaluation process with respect to these loans. We identify appropriate loans from our origination pipeline based on investment criteria factors such as, among other things, the prospective borrower's financial performance, loan size, proposed sources and uses and location, at which point we may issue an indication of interest or non-binding term sheet and, if mutually agreeable, enter into a non-binding term sheet or non-binding syndication commitment letter with the prospective borrower.

We are currently completing our underwriting process and negotiating definitive loan documents for each of the potential loan investments related to our active fully-executed, non-binding term sheets and fully-executed, non-binding syndication commitment letters. The potential loans remain subject to satisfactory completion of our underwriting and due diligence processes, definitive documentation and final approval by the Investment Committee, as applicable. As a result, no assurance can be given that any of these potential loans will close on the currently contemplated terms or at all. We intend to fund these potential loans using unused borrowing capacity under our senior secured revolving credit facility (the "Revolving Credit Facility"), obtained under the Loan and Security Agreement (the "Revolving Credit Agreement"), net proceeds of future debt or equity offerings, including in connection with our at-the-market offering program (the "ATM Program"), existing cash and/or, depending upon the timing of closing, or net proceeds from loan repayments.

Our Leadership

Leonard M. Tannenbaum, our Chief Investment Officer and Executive Chairman, has over 25 years of investment management experience. He has taken three other entities public and has managed several externally-managed investment vehicles with approximately \$5.0 billion of assets under management in the aggregate. During his career, Mr. Tannenbaum has underwritten over 400 loans with over \$10.0 billion in principal value. Daniel Neville, our Chief Executive Officer, has over 15 years of experience in finance. Prior to joining AFC Gamma in November 2023, Mr. Neville previously served as the Chief Financial Officer of Ascend Wellness Holdings, Inc. Robyn Tannenbaum, our President, has over 15 years of experience in finance, capital market transactions and investor relations. Brandon Hetzel, our Chief Financial Officer and Treasurer, has over 14 years of experience in accounting and finance.

Our Manager and Our Management Agreement

We are externally managed and advised by our Manager, a registered investment adviser under the Investment Advisers Act of 1940, as amended (the "Advisers Act"), and an affiliate of Mr. Tannenbaum, Mrs. Tannenbaum and Mr. Neville. Each of our officers is employed by our Manager and certain of our officers are members of AFC Gamma's Investment Committee.

Our Manager's team is comprised of professionals with extensive and diverse expertise and significant financing industry experience. Members of the Investment Committee of our Manager and the investment personnel provided by our Manager have approximately 80 years of combined investment management experience and are a valuable resource to us. Our Manager, its affiliates and the members of our Investment Committee manage several externally-managed vehicles totaling over \$400.0 million in cannabis-related assets, including AFC Gamma, Inc. and AFC Warehouse Holding, LLC ("AFC Warehouse"), one of our affiliates. Our Manager's Investment Committee is comprised of Leonard M. Tannenbaum, Robyn Tannenbaum, Bernard D. Berman, and Daniel Neville.

In September 2023, Mr. Berman purchased a 3.0% membership interest in certain income of the Manager. In January 2024, Mr. Neville purchased a 1.6% membership interest in certain income of the Manager. The Manager is 75.0% owned by Mr. Tannenbaum and 10.0% owned by Mrs. Tannenbaum.

Our Management Agreement

Pursuant to the Management Agreement, our Manager manages our portfolio and our day-to-day operations, subject to the terms set forth in the Management Agreement and such further conditions as may be imposed from time to time by our Board. Under the Management Agreement, our Manager has contractual responsibilities to us, including to provide us with a management team (whether our Manager's own employees or individuals for which our Manager has contracted with other parties to provide services to its clients), who will be our executive officers, and the Investment Committee.

Currently, the Management Agreement automatically renews every year on July 31st for a one-year period, unless we or our Manager elects not to renew. The Management Agreement may be terminated by us or our Manager under certain specified circumstances.

Pursuant to the Management Agreement, upon the date on which our equity equals or exceeds \$1,000,000,000, we may, at our election, provide our Manager with a written offer for an internalization transaction in which our Manager will contribute all of its assets to us, or in the alternative, the equity owners of our Manager will contribute 100% of the outstanding equity interest in our Manager to us. If the offer price of such internalization transaction has not been agreed prior to the date that is the three-month anniversary of the date on which our equity equals or exceeds \$1,000,000,000, then we shall have the right, but not the obligation, to consummate such internalization transaction, effective as of such date, at an internalization price equal to five times the sum of (i) the annual Base Management Fee (without giving effect to any Base Management Fee Rebate), (ii) the annual Incentive Compensation and (iii) the aggregate amount of Outside Fees less the Base Management Fee Rebate, in each case, earned by our Manager during the 12-month period immediately preceding the most recently completed fiscal quarter.

For a summary of compensation paid to our Manager for the years ended December 31, 2023 and 2022, see Note 15 to our consolidated financial statements in this Annual Report for more information.

On March 10, 2022, we entered into an amendment to our Management Agreement between us and our Manager. Pursuant to the amendment, the Management Agreement was amended to, among other things, (i) update the investment guidelines to allow for (x) investments in, among other things, debt securities (including seller notes) with characteristics similar to our Target Investments (as defined in our Management Agreement) and (y) until appropriate investments in Target Investments are identified, short-term investments in, among other things, equity interests of real estate investment trusts and (ii) update the payment process for the Base Management Fee and Incentive Fee payable to our Manager to allow for a preliminary payment of such fees equal to 80-90% of the estimated quarterly installment prior to the final calculation and payment of such quarterly installments.

On November 7, 2022, we entered into an amendment to our Management Agreement between us and our Manager. Pursuant to the amendment, the Management Agreement was amended to update the investment guidelines to allow for investments in (i) first lien loans secured by mortgages to businesses that are not related to the cannabis industry, (ii) the ownership of non-cannabis related real property assets and (iii) mortgage-backed securities.

On March 6, 2023, we entered into an amendment to our Management Agreement between us and our Manager. Pursuant to the amendment, the Management Agreement was amended to update the investment guidelines to allow for investments in second lien loans secured by mortgages to businesses that are not related to the cannabis industry. In addition, the definition of the Investment Committee was amended to allow independent contractors to serve on the Investment Committee and to allow for a majority vote for any action taken by the Investment Committee at any time that the Investment Committee is comprised of at least four members.

On September 11, 2023, we entered into an amendment to our Management Agreement between us and our Manager. Pursuant to the amendment, the Management Agreement was amended to update the investment guidelines to allow for investments in mezzanine loans to commercial real estate owners, operators and related businesses. In addition, the investment guidelines were amended such that loans and investments made in respect of (x) first lien or second lien loans secured by mortgages or mezzanine loans to commercial real estate owners, operators and related businesses, (y) the ownership of non-cannabis related commercial real estate assets, and (z) mortgage-backed securities shall not exceed 35% of the Company's assets as evaluated on a quarterly basis and determined by our Board through the independent Audit and Valuation Committee.

On February 22, 2024, we entered into an amendment to our Management Agreement between us and our Manager. Pursuant to the amendment, the Management Agreement was amended to update the investment guidelines to focus on our investments in first and second lien loans, typically secured by mortgages and other security interests, to cannabis operators in states that have legalized medical and/or adult use cannabis. Therefore, the investment guidelines were amended such that loans and investments made in respect of (x) first lien or second lien loans secured by mortgages or mezzanine loans to commercial real estate owners, operators and related businesses and (y) the ownership of non-cannabis related commercial real estate assets, were removed and are no longer permitted by the investment guidelines. We and our Manager have agreed that this amendment will become effective upon the completion of the Spin-Off (as defined below). The Manager is a wholly-owned subsidiary of Castleground Holdings LLC (f/k/a Advanced Flower Capital Management, LLC) (the "Parent Manager").

Indemnification and Liability

Our Management Agreement provides for customary indemnification of our Manager and its affiliates, and certain of our and their respective members, shareholders, managers, partners, trustees, personnel, officers, directors, employees, consultants and Sub-Managers, as applicable. Additionally, we have entered into indemnification agreements with the members of the Investment Committee provided by our Manager that provide for indemnification and advance of expenses to the maximum extent permitted by Maryland law, subject to certain standards to be met and certain other limitations and conditions as set forth in such indemnification agreements. We also carry directors and officers insurance. We believe the policy specifications and insured limits are appropriate and adequate given the relative risk of loss, the cost of the coverage and standard industry practice; however, our insurance coverage may not be sufficient to cover all of our losses. The Management Agreement also provides that the Manager Parties will not be liable to us for acts or omissions performed in accordance with and pursuant to the Management Agreement, except by reason of acts constituting bad faith, willful misconduct, gross negligence, or reckless disregard of their duties under the relevant Management Agreement.

Term

The Management Agreement automatically renews every year on July 31st for a one-year period, unless we or our Manager elect not to renew. We may decline to renew our Management Agreement upon 180 days prior written notice and the affirmative vote of at least two-thirds of our independent directors that there has been unsatisfactory performance by our Manager that is materially detrimental to us taken as a whole. In such event, we shall pay our Manager a termination fee (the "Termination Fee") equal to three times the sum of (i) the annual Base Management Fee and (ii) the annual Incentive Compensation, in each case, earned by our Manager during the 12-month period immediately preceding the most recently completed fiscal quarter. Our Manager may decline to renew our Management Agreement upon 180 days prior written notice and without payment of any termination fee by either party. We and our Manager have agreed that it is both of our intention that if our Management Agreement is not terminated prior to our equity equaling or exceeding \$1,000,000,000, then we and our Manager (or the equity owners of our Manager) shall contemplate effecting an Internalization Transaction (as defined below) pursuant to our Management Agreement. Our Management Agreement was amended and restated to reflect these terms upon the consummation of our IPO.

Termination for Cause

We may terminate our Management Agreement effective upon 30 days' prior written notice, without payment of any termination fee, if (i) our Manager, its agents or its assignees breach any material provision of our Management Agreement and such breach shall continue for a period of 30 days after written notice thereof specifying such breach and requesting that the same be remedied in such 30-day period (or 45 days after written notice of such breach if our Manager takes steps to cure such breach within 30 days of the written notice); (ii) there is a commencement of any proceeding relating to our Manager's bankruptcy or insolvency, including an order for relief in an involuntary bankruptcy case or our Manager authorizing or filing a voluntary bankruptcy petition; (iii) any Manager change of control occurs that a majority of the independent directors determines is materially detrimental to us taken as a whole; (iv) our Manager is dissolved; or (v) our Manager commits fraud against us, misappropriates or embezzles our funds, or acts, or fails to act, in a manner constituting bad faith, willful misconduct, gross negligence or reckless disregard in the performance of its duties under this Agreement; provided, however, that if any of the actions or omissions described in this clause (v) are caused by an employee, personnel and/or officer of our Manager or one of its affiliates and our Manager (or such affiliate) takes all necessary and appropriate action against such person and cures the damage caused by such actions or omissions within 30 days of our Manager's actual knowledge of its commission or omission, we shall not have the right to terminate our Management Agreement.

Our Manager may terminate our Management Agreement effective upon 60 days' prior written notice in the event that we default in the performance or observance of any material term, condition or covenant contained in our Management Agreement and such default shall continue for a period of 30 days after written notice thereof specifying such default and requesting that the same be remedied in such 30-day period. We are required to pay to our Manager the Termination Fee if our Management Agreement is terminated pursuant to the preceding sentence. Additionally, our Manager may terminate our Management Agreement if we are required to register as an investment company under the Investment Company Act, in which case we shall not be required to pay a termination fee.

Internalization of our Manager

Our Management Agreement was amended and restated in connection with our IPO such that upon the date on which our equity equals or exceeds \$1,000,000,000 (such date, the "Internalization Trigger Date"), we may, at our election, provide our Manager with a written offer for an internalization transaction in which our Manager will contribute all of its assets to us, or in the alternative, the equity owners of our Manager will contribute 100% of the outstanding equity interest in our Manager to us (such transaction an "Internalization Transaction"). The initial offer price will be as determined by a special committee of our Board consisting solely of our independent directors (the "Internalization Committee") and set forth in any such initial written offer. Upon receipt of our initial offer, our Manager may accept our proposal or submit a counter offer. If an Internalization Transaction is not consummated pursuant to our initial offer or our Manager's counter offer, our Manager and we agree to enter into good faith negotiations for the consummation of an Internalization Transaction with an offer price to be agreed. Notwithstanding the foregoing, if the price of such Internalization Transaction (the "Internalization Price") has not been agreed upon prior to the date that is the three-month anniversary of the Internalization Trigger Date, then we shall have the right, but not the obligation, to consummate an Internalization Transaction, effective as of such date, at an Internalization Price equal to five times the sum of (i) the annual Base Management Fee (without giving effect to any Base Management Fee Rebate), (ii) the annual Incentive Compensation and (iii) the aggregate amount of Outside Fees less the Base Management Fee Rebate, in each case, earned by our Manager during the 12-month period immediately preceding the most recently completed fiscal quarter.

At the time of consummation of an Internalization Transaction, all assets of our Manager or 100% of the equity interest in our Manager shall be conveyed to and acquired by us in exchange for the consideration to be paid for the Internalization Transaction. Consummation of any Internalization Transaction agreed to between us and our Manager is conditioned upon the satisfaction of the following conditions: (i) our receipt of a fairness opinion from a nationally-recognized investment banking firm to the effect that the consideration to be paid by us for the assets and equity of our Manager is fair, from a financial point of view, to our shareholders who are not affiliated with our Manager or its affiliates; (ii) the approval of the acquisition by the Internalization Committee; and (iii) the approval of our shareholders holding a majority of the votes cast on such Internalization Transaction proposal at a meeting of shareholders duly called and at which a quorum is present, any of which conditions may be waived by us, in our sole discretion.

The price to be paid to our Manager in any Internalization Transaction may be payable in cash, shares of our common stock or a combination at the discretion of our Board. The value of any our common stock paid as partial or full consideration of any Internalization Transaction shall be calculated based on the volume-weighted average of the closing market price of our common stock for the ten consecutive trading days immediately preceding the date with respect to which value must be determined; provided, however, that if our common stock is not traded on a securities exchange at the time of closing of any such Internalization Transaction, then the number of shares of common stock shall be determined by agreement between our Board and our Manager or, in the absence of such agreement, the Internalization Price shall be paid in cash.

Investment Guidelines

We have adopted investment guidelines (the "Investment Guidelines") which require us and our Manager to abide by certain investment strategies which include, but are not limited to: (i) not making loans that would cause us to fail to qualify as a REIT, or that would cause us to be regulated as an investment company under the Investment Company Act; (ii) not making loans that would cause us to violate any law, rule or regulation of any applicable governmental body or agency (excluding the federal prohibition under the CSA (defined below) of the cultivation, processing, sale or possession of cannabis or parts of cannabis including the sale or possession of cannabis paraphernalia, advertising the sale of cannabis, products containing cannabis or cannabis paraphernalia, or controlling or managing real estate on which cannabis is trafficked, as long as such investments are in compliance with applicable state law) or any applicable securities exchange or that would otherwise not be permitted by our governing documents; (iii) requiring the approval of the Investment Committee for all investments made by us; and (iv) until appropriate loans that align with our overall investment strategy are identified, permitting our Manager to cause us to invest our available cash in interest-bearing, short-term investments, including money market accounts or funds, commercial mortgage backed securities and corporate bonds, debt securities (including seller notes), equity and other investments, and interests of real estate investment trusts, subject to the requirements for our qualification as a REIT.

Our Investment Guidelines may only be amended, restated, modified, supplemented or waived pursuant to the approval of (i) a majority of our Board (which must include a majority of our independent directors) and (ii) our Manager.

Investment Committee

Pursuant to our Management Agreement, our Manager has established an Investment Committee for us, the members of which consist of employees or advisers of our Manager and/or its affiliates and which currently includes certain of our Manager's affiliates and certain of our officers. The Investment Committee has the following responsibilities: (i) reviewing loan opportunities for us presented to it by senior investment professionals of our Manager and (ii) reviewing our loan portfolios for compliance with the Investment Guidelines established pursuant to our Management Agreement at least on a quarterly basis, or more frequently as necessary. All of our loans require the approval of the Investment Committee. The members of the Investment Committee currently consist of Mr. Tannenbaum, Mrs. Tannenbaum, Mr. Neville and Mr. Berman. Any action to be taken by the Investment Committee requires the approval of a majority of the members of the Investment Committee; provided that during any time that the Investment Committee is comprised of less than four (4) members, any action by the Investment Committee shall require unanimous approval of all members of the Investment Committee.

Manager Succession Plan

The members of our Manager have delegated the management of the business and affairs of our Manager to Mr. Tannenbaum, as manager (the "Managing Member"). Pursuant to our Manager's operating agreement, the Managing Member will hold office until such Managing Member resigns or is removed pursuant to our Manager's operating agreement. The Managing Member shall be automatically removed as such in the event of his or her death, permanent physical or mental disability. Upon the resignation or removal of Mr. Tannenbaum as the Managing Member, the members of our Manager will appoint Mrs. Tannenbaum as the Managing Member.

Co-Investments

From time to time, we may co-invest with other investment vehicles managed by our Manager or its affiliates, including our Manager, and their portfolio companies, including by means of splitting loans, participating in loans or other means of syndicating loans. We are not obligated to provide, nor have we provided, any financial support to the other managed investment vehicles. As such, our risk is limited to the carrying value of its investment in any such loan. As of December 31, 2023, there were four co-invested loans held by us and our affiliates. Subsequent to December 31, 2023, there were an additional two co-invested loans held by us and our affiliates.

Certain investment opportunities in loans, which may be suitable for us, may also be suitable for other accounts, private funds, pooled investment vehicles or other entities managed or advised, directly or indirectly, by our Manager, Mr. Tannenbaum or Mrs. Tannenbaum, or any of their or our respective affiliates or entities in which any such person is an executive, in each case, excluding AFC Warehouse, our affiliate that is also managed by our Manager (such accounts, private funds, pooled investment vehicles and other entities, collectively, the "Ancillary Entities"), and, subject to compliance with the Manager COI Policy (as defined below), our related persons transaction policy, our code of business conduct and ethics and applicable regulatory considerations, our Manager may allocate such loans and participate in such loans on behalf of Ancillary Entities under such allocation process as our Manager deems reasonable under the circumstances in good faith. Additionally, subject to the foregoing policies, codes and considerations, our Manager or its affiliates, including AFC Agent LLC ("AFC Agent"), may from time to time serve as administrative agent to the lenders under our co-investments, which as of December 31, 2023 include: (1) Private Company I, (2) Private Company A, (3) Subsidiary of Private Company G and (4) Subsidiary of Public Company H. Two additional co-invested loans that closed subsequent to December 31, 2023 are noted below with regards to CRE Private Company A and CRE Private Company B.

- (1) In July 2021, the senior secured loan facility with Private Company I, consisting of an aggregate of \$15.5 million in loan commitments, was syndicated by our Manager between the Company and ABW Warehouse, LLC ("ABW"), an entity wholly-owned by Mr. Tannenbaum, our Chief Investment Officer and Executive Chairman of our Board, and Mrs. Tannenbaum, our President. ABW's commitment in the loan facility was ultimately transferred to AFC Institutional Fund LLC ("AFCIF"), an entity beneficially owned in part, by our (i) Chief Investment Officer and Executive Chairman of our Board, (ii) President and (iii) former Head of Real Estate and a former Director, while each such owner also maintained a beneficial ownership of our Manager at the time of the investment. AFCIF holds approximately one-third of the loan's aggregate principal amount as of December 31, 2023. On April 1, 2022, our investment in the senior secured loan to Private Company I was transferred to TRS1. In May 2022, the credit agreement with Private Company I was amended to, among other things, increase the aggregate loan commitment by approximately \$0.1 million, such that the loan commitment of TRS1 is approximately \$10.4 million. In connection with the amendment, TRS1 also agreed to waive certain financial covenants for one fiscal quarter and amend the minimum net income financial covenant for certain fiscal quarters, subject to certain terms and conditions, including payment of an amendment fee. In October 2022, TRS1 entered into an amendment with Private Company I to, among other things, and subject to certain terms and conditions, (i) increase the aggregate loan commitment by approximately \$0.1 million, such that the loan commitment of TRS1 is approximately \$10.5 million, (ii) waive certain financial covenants for one fiscal quarter, (iii) defer certain principal payments, (iv) permit 50% of cash interest to instead be paid in kind for four months and (v) increase the interest rate for interest paid in kind. In January 2023, TRS1 agreed, subject to certain terms and conditions (including payment of full cash interest, rather than partial PIK interest, which was previously agreed to), to defer an upcoming principal payment. In March 2023, TRS1 agreed, subject to certain terms and conditions, to defer an upcoming principal payment and permit a portion of an upcoming cash interest payment to instead be paid in kind. In May 2023, Private Company I failed to pay its full principal and interest payments due May 1, 2023. The agent on the credit facility, AFC Agent, promptly delivered a notice of an event of default based on this payment default and certain other defaults under the credit agreement, accelerated all obligations due thereunder and subsequently initiated a foreclosing procedure in the State of Maryland. In June 2023, we sold two-thirds of the Private Company I credit facility at par plus accrued interest to a multi-state cannabis operator and we have a put right on the remaining one-third immediately prior to the transfer of one of the borrower's cannabis licenses. As of December 31, 2023, our outstanding principal balance was approximately \$3.8 million, which is fully funded.

(2) In September 2021, we entered into an assignment with our Manager (the "September Commitment Assignment") pursuant to which our Manager assigned to us its commitment to make loans to Private Company A in a principal amount of up to \$20.0 million, which was funded in September 2021. We purchased the loan commitments from our Manager at accreted cost plus accrued PIK interest. We did not pay any fees or premium to our Manager for our acquisition of our Manager's loan commitments under the Credit Agreement with Private Company A (the "Private Company A Credit Facility") pursuant to the September Commitment Assignment. In December 2021, we entered into the second amendment to the Private Company A Credit Facility to, among other things, increase the total loan commitments by \$20.0 million in an additional tranche, with \$2.5 million allocated to Flower Loan Holdco, LLC ("FLH"), an entity wholly-owned by Mr. and Mrs. Tannenbaum, and the remaining new commitment allocated to third-party lenders. In February 2022, we entered into the third amendment to the Private Company A Credit Facility to, among other things, increase the total loan commitments by \$16.3 million in an additional tranche, with approximately \$15.3 million allocated to the Company and approximately \$1.0 million allocated to a third-party lender. In November 2022, we entered into a fourth amendment to the Private Company A Credit Facility to, among other things, increase the total loan commitments by \$10.0 million in an additional tranche, with approximately \$7.1 million allocated to the Company, \$1.4 million allocated to FLH and the remaining \$1.5 million allocated to third-party lenders. In March 2023, we entered into a fifth amendment to the Private Company A Credit Facility to, among other things and subject to certain terms and conditions, (i) increase the interest rate of certain tranches such that the facility has a uniform interest rate of 13.0% across certain tranches; (ii) reprioritize the allocation of principal and interest payments to first be applied to a specific tranche under the facility; and (iii) establish the requirement for a blocked account to hold the cash proceeds from the sale of certain assets and distribute such proceeds to the lenders. In October 2023, AFC Agent delivered a notice of default to Private Company A based on certain financial and other covenant defaults and began charging additional default interest of 5.0%, beginning as of July 1, 2023, in accordance with the terms of the Private Company A Credit Facility. In November 2023, Private Company A was placed into receivership to maintain the borrower's operations and maximize value for the benefit of its creditors. The court-appointed receiver began liquidating certain assets for the benefit of the creditors. During the year ended December 31, 2023, AFC Agent received approximately \$48.2 million in total loan principal prepayments and \$1.4 million in related exit fees from the borrower's sale of some of its collateral assets, of which approximately \$34.7 million in principal prepayments and \$1.1 million in related exit fees were allocated to us relating to our pro rata portion of the Private Company A Credit Facility and was applied to the outstanding principal balance. As of December 31, 2023, our outstanding principal balance was approximately \$53.4 million, which is fully funded. Refer to Note 17 to our consolidated financial statements for more information on Private Company A prepayments that occurred subsequent to December 31, 2023.

- (3) In September 2021, we entered into the second amended and restated credit agreement with Subsidiary of Private Company G to, among other things, increase the total loan commitments by \$53.4 million in three tranches, with approximately \$10.0 million allocated to ABW and the remaining \$43.4 million allocated to us. ABW's commitment was ultimately transferred to AFCIF. In August 2022, we committed an additional \$8.1 million under the credit agreement with Subsidiary of Private Company G. Following the expansion, we now hold \$73.5 million in commitments. As part of the expansion, the interest rate increased from a blended weighted-average rate across three tranches of 13.7% to U.S. prime rate plus 10.25%, subject to a U.S. prime rate floor of 4.5%, per annum and the PIK interest decreased from a blended weighted-average rate across three tranches of 1.8% to 0.0% per annum. In December 2022, the credit agreement with Subsidiary of Private Company G was amended to, among other things and subject to certain terms and conditions, (i) require the borrowers to make certain cash equity capital contributions, (ii) permit 75% of accrued cash interest to instead be paid in kind for four months and (iii) include an excess cash flow sweep. Subsidiary of Private Company G failed to make its cash interest payment due July 1, 2023 in arrears for the month of June, and we placed the borrower on non-accrual from June 1, 2023 to August 31, 2023. In connection therewith, we initiated a consensual foreclosure proceeding with respect to certain of the borrower's assets in Pennsylvania, with the expectation that the net cash proceeds of the public auction would be used to prepay a portion of the principal outstanding under the credit facility. On September 6, 2023, the foreclosure proceeding was adjourned indefinitely. We subsequently entered into a forbearance agreement with Subsidiary of Private Company G in September 2023, which carves out the consensual foreclosure proceeding described above, pursuant to which we agreed to forbear from exercising certain remedies as a result of certain defaults under the credit agreement. In exchange for such forbearance, Subsidiary of Private Company G agreed to, among other things, sell certain assets, including certain collateral, the proceeds of which will be applied to the outstanding obligations under the credit agreement with Private Company G, to provide certain additional collateral, and to contribute additional cash equity to be held in escrow by AFC Agent. As amended by the forbearance agreement entered into with Subsidiary of Private Company G, the borrower was required to pay interest of \$0.8 million pro rata to the lender group for the month of September and to pay \$1.0 million pro rata to the lender group for each of the months of October, November, and December 2023. Subsidiary of Private Company G paid September, October, and November interest in accordance with the terms of the forbearance agreement, which was due October 1, 2023, November 1, 2023, and December 1, 2023, respectively, and the credit facility was restored to accrual status. During the fourth quarter of 2023, AFC Agent received \$1.5 million from the sale of some of the collateral assets of Subsidiary of Private Company G, of which approximately \$1.3 million was allocated to us and applied to the outstanding interest balance. Subsidiary of Private Company G did not make its cash interest payment due January 1, 2024 in arrears for the month of December, and we placed the borrower on non-accrual as of December 1, 2023 and will recognize income related to loan activity only upon receipt of cash. Refer to Note 17 to our consolidated financial statements for more information on Subsidiary of Private Company G forbearance agreement that was entered into subsequent to December 31, 2023. As of December 31, 2023, our outstanding principal balance under the credit facility with Subsidiary of Private Company G was approximately \$79.2 million, which is fully funded.
- (4) In December 2021, we entered into a credit agreement with Subsidiary of Public Company H, which provides Subsidiary of Public Company H with a \$100.0 million senior secured credit facility, of which, we committed \$60.0 million, a predecessor-in-interest to AFCIF committed \$10.0 million, and third-party lenders committed \$30.0 million of the aggregate principal amount. In October 2022, the credit agreement with Subsidiary of Public Company H was amended to, among other things, increase the total loan commitment by \$50.0 million, of which \$30.0 million of the new loan commitment was allocated pro rata to us, \$5.0 million was allocated to AFCIF and the remaining \$15.0 million was allocated to a third-party lender. As part of the expansion, the interest rate increased from a fixed rate of 9.8% to U.S. prime rate plus 5.8%, subject to a U.S. prime rate floor of 5.5%. In April 2023, the credit agreement with Subsidiary of Public Company H was amended to, among other things, (i) reduce the total loan commitment by \$10.0 million ratably amongst the lenders, including us, of which \$6.0 million of the reduced commitment was allocated to us and \$9.0 million of additional principal was funded by us, (ii) strengthen the real estate coverage covenants and (iii) require certain conditions precedent be met prior to disbursing funds to construction projects. Following the amendment, we held \$84.0 million in commitments. As of December 31, 2023, our outstanding principal balance under the credit facility with Subsidiary of Public Company H was \$84.0 million, which is fully funded.

- (5) In January 2024, the Company and an affiliate entered into a secured mezzanine loan with CRE Private Company A that was syndicated by the affiliate, consisting of an aggregate of \$56.4 million in loan commitments, of which \$28.2 million was funded by us and another \$28.2 million was provided by an affiliate. The Company and affiliate are each 50.0% syndicate lenders in the secured mezzanine loan. The secured mezzanine loan bears interest at an annual rate of Secured Overnight Financing Rate ("SOFR") plus 15.31% spread, subject to a SOFR floor of 2.42%. At the end of January 2024, the Company and affiliate entered into an amendment to the secured mezzanine loan with CRE Private Company A, which among other things, (1) extended the maturity date to May 31, 2024 and (2) amended the SOFR floor from 2.42% to 4.00%. Pursuant to the amendment, the Company and affiliate expect to receive an extension fee of approximately \$0.1 million each, respectively.
- (6) In January 2024, the Company and an affiliate entered into a secured mezzanine loan with CRE Private Company B that was syndicated by the affiliate, consisting of an aggregate of \$56.4 million in loan commitments, of which \$20.7 million was funded by us and another \$20.7 million was provided by an affiliate. The secured mezzanine loan was purchased by us and an affiliate at a discount of 1.0% for a purchase price of approximately \$20.4 million each, respectively. Approximately \$15.0 million was established as an unfunded commitment, available to be drawn to pay interest on the secured mezzanine loan, of which we are responsible for \$7.5 million. The Company and affiliate are each 50.0% syndicate lenders in the secured mezzanine loan. The secured mezzanine loan bears interest at an annual fixed rate of 13.00% and matures in May 2027.

AFC Agent, an entity wholly-owned by Mr. and Mrs. Tannenbaum, serves as the administrative agent to all respective lenders under the majority of our credit facilities. We do not pay any consideration to AFC Agent for its services as administrative agent under such credit facilities.

Management Compensation

Our Manager will manage our day-to-day affairs. The following table summarizes all of the compensation, fees and expense reimbursement that we will pay to our Manager under our Management Agreement:

Type	Description	Payment
Base Management Fees	An amount equal to 0.375% of our Equity (as defined below), determined as of the last day of each quarter. The Base Management Fees are reduced by the Base Management Fee Rebate. Under no circumstances will the Base Management Fee be less than zero. Our Equity, for purposes of calculating the Base Management Fees, could be greater than or less than the amount of shareholders' equity shown on our financial statements. The Base Management Fees are payable independent of the performance of our portfolio. For additional information, see “—<i>Base Management Fees</i>.”	Quarterly in arrears in cash.
Base Management Fee Rebate	An amount equal to 50% of the aggregate amount of any other fees earned and paid to our Manager during the applicable quarter resulting from the investment advisory services and general management services rendered by our Manager to us under our Management Agreement, including any agency fees relating to our loans, but excluding the Incentive Compensation and any diligence fees paid to and earned by our Manager and paid by third parties in connection with our Manager's due diligence of potential loans. For additional information, see “—<i>Base Management Fees</i>.”	Reduces the Base Management Fees on a quarterly basis.
Incentive Compensation	An amount with respect to each fiscal quarter (or portion thereof that our Management Agreement is in effect) based upon our achievement of targeted levels of Core Earnings (as defined below). No Incentive Compensation is payable with respect to any fiscal quarter unless our Core Earnings for such quarter exceed the amount equal to the product of (i) 2% and (ii) Adjusted Capital (as defined below) as of the last day of the immediately preceding fiscal quarter (such amount, the “Hurdle Amount”). The Incentive Compensation for any fiscal quarter will otherwise be calculated as the sum of (i) the product of (A) 50% and (B) the amount of our Core Earnings for such quarter, if any, that exceeds the Hurdle Amount, but is less than or equal to 166-2/3% of the Hurdle Amount and (ii) the product of (A) 20% and (B) the amount of our Core Earnings for such quarter, if any, that exceeds 166-2/3% of the Hurdle Amount. Such compensation is subject to Clawback Obligations (as defined below), if any. For additional information, see “—<i>Incentive Compensation</i>” and “—<i>Incentive Compensation—Incentive Compensation Clawback</i>.”	Quarterly in arrears in cash.

Expense Reimbursement	We pay all of our costs and expenses and reimburse our Manager or its affiliates for expenses of our Manager and its affiliates paid or incurred on our behalf, excepting only those expenses that are specifically the responsibility of our Manager pursuant to our Management Agreement. Pursuant to our Management Agreement, we reimburse our Manager or its affiliates, as applicable, for our fair and equitable allocable share of the compensation, including annual base salary, bonus, any related withholding taxes and employee benefits, paid to (i) subject to review by the Compensation Committee of our Board, our Manager's personnel serving as our Chief Executive Officer (except when the Chief Executive Officer serves as a member of the Investment Committee prior to the consummation of an internalization transaction of our Manager by us), General Counsel, Chief Compliance Officer, Chief Financial Officer, Chief Marketing Officer, Managing Director and any of our other officers, based on the percentage of his or her time spent devoted to our affairs and (ii) other corporate finance, tax, accounting, internal audit, legal, risk management, operations, compliance and other non-investment personnel of the Manager and its affiliates who spend all or a portion of their time managing our affairs, with the allocable share of the compensation of such personnel described in this clause (ii) being as reasonably determined by our Manager to appropriately reflect the amount of time spent devoted by such personnel to our affairs. The service by any personnel of our Manager and its affiliates as a member of the Investment Committee will not, by itself, be dispositive in the determination as to whether such personnel is deemed "investment personnel" of our Manager and its affiliates for purposes of expense reimbursement. Prior to the consummation of our IPO, we were not obligated to reimburse our Manager or its affiliates, as applicable, for any compensation paid to Mr. Tannenbaum, Mr. Jonathan Kalikow, a former director and officer of the Company, or Mrs. Tannenbaum. For the years ended December 31, 2023 and 2022, our Manager did not seek reimbursement for our allocable share of Mr. Kalikow and Mr. Tannenbaum's compensation, but did seek reimbursement for our allocable share of Mrs. Tannenbaum's compensation. For additional information, see "<i>—Expense Reimbursement.</i>"	Monthly in cash.
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Termination Fee	Equal to three times the sum of (i) the annual Base Management Fee and (ii) the annual Incentive Compensation, in each case, earned by our Manager during the 12-month period immediately preceding the most recently completed fiscal quarter prior to the date of termination. Such fee shall be payable upon termination of our Management Agreement in the event that (i) we decline to renew our Management Agreement, without cause, upon 180 days prior written notice and the affirmative vote of at least two-thirds of our independent directors that there has been unsatisfactory performance by our Manager that is materially detrimental to us taken as a whole, or (ii) our Management Agreement is terminated by our Manager (effective upon 60 days' prior written notice) based upon our default in the performance or observance of any material term, condition or covenant contained in our Management Agreement and such default continuing for a period of 30 days after written notice thereof specifying such default and requesting that the same be remedied in such 30-day period.	Upon specified termination in cash.
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For additional information, see “—*Termination Fee*.”

General

Under our Management Agreement, we pay a Base Management Fee and Incentive Compensation to our Manager. Upon the consummation of our IPO, our Management Agreement was amended and restated to revise the Base Management Fee and Incentive Compensation payable to our Manager as specified below. Any compensation previously earned by our Manager for services rendered prior to the consummation of our IPO was calculated and payable pursuant to the terms of, and in accordance with, our Management Agreement as in effect prior to the consummation of our IPO. Pursuant to our Management Agreement, we are also obligated to reimburse our Manager or its affiliates for certain expenses of our Manager and its affiliates paid or incurred on our behalf. We may also grant equity-based awards and incentives to our Manager and other eligible awardees under our 2020 Stock Incentive Plan (the “Stock Incentive Plan”) from time to time. During the years ended December 31, 2023 and 2022, our Manager earned a Base Management Fee of approximately \$3.7 million and \$3.4 million respectively, which was net of a Base Management Fee Rebate of approximately \$1.7 million and \$1.8 million, respectively. The Incentive Compensation fee payable to our Manager for the years ended December 31, 2023 and 2022 was approximately \$10.4 million and \$12.3 million, respectively.

Summary Compensation and Expenses Reimbursement Table

	Years ended December 31,	
	2023	2022
Management fees	\$ 5,395,617	\$ 5,213,535
Less: outside fees earned	(1,693,133)	(1,785,916)
Base management fees	3,702,484	3,427,619
Incentive fees earned	10,361,821	12,337,631
General and administrative expenses reimbursable to Manager	3,590,594	3,976,312
Total	\$ 17,654,899	\$ 19,741,562

Base Management Fees

Initially, our Manager received base management fees ("Base Management Fees") that were calculated and payable quarterly in arrears in cash, in an amount equal to 0.4375% of our Equity (as defined below), determined as of the last day of each such quarter. The Base Management Fees were to be reduced by the aggregate amount of any other fees earned and paid to our Manager during such quarter resulting from the investment advisory services and general management services rendered by it to us under our Management Agreement, including any syndication, structuring, diligence, monitoring or agency fees relating to our loans, but excluding the Incentive Compensation (as defined below). Our Management Agreement was amended and restated upon the consummation of our IPO such that the Base Management Fees now (i) amount to 0.375% of our Equity, determined as of the last day of each quarter, and (ii) will be reduced by 50% of the aggregate amount of any Outside Fees, including any agency fees relating to our loans, but excluding the Incentive Compensation and any diligence fees paid to and earned by our Manager and paid by third parties in connection with our Manager's due diligence of potential loans. Under no circumstances will the Base Management Fees be less than zero. Our Equity, for purposes of calculating the Base Management Fees, could be greater than or less than the amount of shareholders' equity shown on our consolidated financial statements. The Base Management Fees are payable independent of the performance of our portfolio.

For purposes of computing the Base Management Fees, "Equity" means, as of any date (i) the sum of (A) the net proceeds from all of our issuances of equity securities since our inception through such date (allocated on a pro rata daily basis for such issuances during the fiscal quarter of any such issuance), plus (B) our retained earnings at the end of the most recently completed fiscal quarter determined in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles ("GAAP") in the United States (without taking into account any non-cash equity compensation expense incurred in current or prior periods), less (ii) (A) any amount that we have paid to repurchase our common stock since our inception through such date, (B) any unrealized gains and losses and other non-cash items that have impacted shareholders' equity as reported in our consolidated financial statements prepared in accordance with GAAP through such date; and (C) one-time events pursuant to changes in GAAP, and certain non-cash items not otherwise described above, through such date, in each case as determined after discussions between our Manager and our independent directors and approval by a majority of our independent directors.

Incentive Compensation

In addition to the Base Management Fees, our Manager receives incentive compensation ("Incentive Compensation" or "Incentive Fees") with respect to each fiscal quarter (or portion thereof that our Management Agreement is in effect) based upon our achievement of targeted levels of Core Earnings (as defined below). To the extent earned by our Manager, the Incentive Compensation will be payable to our Manager quarterly in arrears in cash.

Initially, no Incentive Compensation is payable with respect to any fiscal quarter unless our Core Earnings for such quarter exceed the amount equal to the product of (i) 1.75% and (ii) the Adjusted Capital as of the last day of the immediately preceding fiscal quarter (the "Hurdle Amount"). The Incentive Compensation for any fiscal quarter will otherwise be calculated as the sum of (i) the product (the "Catch-Up Amount") of (A) 50% and (B) the amount of our Core Earnings for such quarter, if any, that exceeds the Hurdle Amount, but is less than or equal to 166-2/3% of the Hurdle Amount and (ii) the product (the "Excess Earnings Amount") of (A) 20% and (B) the amount of our Core Earnings for such quarter, if any, that exceeds 166-2/3% of the Hurdle Amount. Our Management Agreement was amended and restated upon the consummation of our IPO such that the Hurdle Amount now equals the product of (i) 2% and (ii) Adjusted Capital as of the last day of the immediately preceding fiscal quarter.

For the purposes of computing Incentive Compensation:

- "Adjusted Capital" means the sum of (i) cumulative gross proceeds generated from issuances of the shares of our capital stock (including any distribution reinvestment plan), less (ii) distributions to our investors that represent a return of capital and amounts paid for share repurchases pursuant to any share repurchase program.
- "Core Earnings" means, for a given period, the net income (loss) for such period, computed in accordance with GAAP, excluding (i) non-cash equity compensation expense, (ii) Incentive Compensation, (iii) depreciation and amortization, (iv) any unrealized gains or losses or other non-cash items that are included in net income for the applicable reporting period, regardless of whether such items are included in other comprehensive income or loss, or in net income and (v) one-time events pursuant to changes in GAAP and certain non-cash charges, in each case as determined after discussions between our Manager and our independent directors and approval by a majority of our independent directors. For the avoidance of doubt, Core Earnings shall not exclude under clause (iv) above, in the case of investments with a deferred interest feature (such as OID, debt instruments with PIK interest and zero coupon securities), accrued income that we have not yet received in cash.

The calculation methodology for computing Incentive Compensation will look through any derivatives or swaps as if we owned the reference assets directly. Therefore, net interest, if any, associated with a derivative or swap (which represents the difference between (i) the interest income and fees received in respect of the reference assets of such derivative or swap and (ii) the interest expense paid by us to the derivative or swap counterparty) will be included in the calculation of Core Earnings for purposes of the Incentive Compensation.

Incentive Compensation Clawback

Initially, once Incentive Compensation is earned and paid to our Manager, it is not refundable, notwithstanding any losses incurred by us in subsequent periods, except that if our aggregate Core Earnings for any fiscal year do not exceed the amount equal to the product of (i) 7.0% and (ii) our Adjusted Capital as of the last day of the immediately preceding fiscal year (such amount, the "Annual Hurdle Amount"), our Manager will be obligated to pay us (such obligation to pay, the "Clawback Obligation") an amount equal to the aggregate Incentive Compensation that was earned and paid to our Manager during such fiscal year (such amount, the "Clawback Amount"); *provided* that under no circumstances will the Clawback Amount be more than the amount to which the Annual Hurdle Amount exceeds our aggregate Core Earnings for the specified fiscal year. The Clawback Obligation is determined on an annual basis and any Incentive Compensation earned during a specified fiscal year will not be subject to the Clawback Obligation with respect to the Incentive Compensation earned during any prior or subsequent fiscal year.

Upon consummation of our IPO, our Management Agreement was amended and restated such that the Annual Hurdle Amount now equals the product of (i) 8.0% and (ii) our Adjusted Capital as of the last day of the immediately preceding fiscal year.

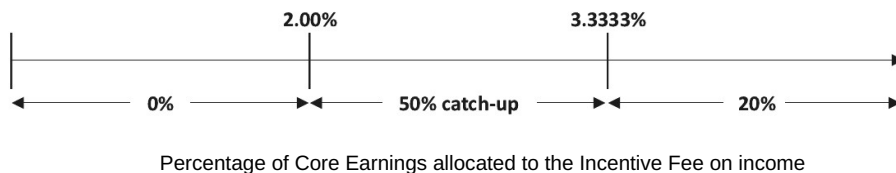
The aggregate Core Earnings, Annual Hurdle Amount, Clawback Amount and any components thereof for the initial and final fiscal years that our Management Agreement is in effect will be prorated based on the number of days during the initial and final fiscal years, respectively, that our Management Agreement is in effect, to the extent applicable.

Incentive Compensation Illustration

The following illustration sets forth a simplified graphical representation of the calculation of our quarterly Incentive Compensation in accordance with our Management Agreement without consideration to any Clawback Obligation.

Quarterly Incentive Fee on Core Earnings

Core Earnings (expressed as a percentage of Adjusted Capital as of the last day of the immediately preceding fiscal quarter)



Incentive Compensation Example

The following table sets forth a simplified, hypothetical example of a quarterly Incentive Compensation calculation in accordance with our Management Agreement without consideration to any Clawback Obligation. Our actual results may differ materially from the following example.

This example of a quarterly Incentive Compensation calculation assumes the following:

- Adjusted Capital as of the last day of the immediately preceding fiscal quarter of \$100.0 million; and
- Core Earnings before the Incentive Compensation for the specified quarter representing a quarterly yield of 20.9% on Adjusted Capital as of the last day of the immediately preceding fiscal quarter.

Under these assumptions, the hypothetical quarterly Incentive Compensation payable to our Manager would be \$1.045 million as calculated below:

		Illustrative Amount	Calculation
1.	What are the Core Earnings?	\$ 5,225,000	Assumed to be a 5.2% quarterly or 20.9% per annum return on Adjusted Capital as of the last day of the immediately preceding fiscal quarter (\$100.0 million).
2.	What is the Hurdle Amount?	\$ 2,000,000	The hurdle rate (2.0% quarterly or 8.0% per annum) multiplied by Adjusted Capital as of the last day of the immediately preceding fiscal quarter (\$100.0 million).
3.	What is the Catch-Up Amount?	\$ 666,667	The catch-up incentive rate (50.0%) multiplied by the amount that Core Earnings (\$5.2 million) exceeds the Hurdle Amount (\$2 million), but is less than or equal to 166-2/3% of the Hurdle Amount (approximately \$3.3 million).
4.	What is the Excess Earnings Amount?	\$ 378,333	The excess earnings incentive rate (20%) multiplied by the amount of Core Earnings (\$5.2 million) that exceeds 166-2/3% of the Hurdle Amount (approximately \$3.3 million).
5.	What is the Incentive Compensation?	\$ 1,045,000	The sum of the Catch-Up Amount (approximately \$666,667) and the Excess Earnings Amount (approximately \$378,333).

The foregoing is solely a hypothetical example of a quarterly Incentive Compensation that we could pay to our Manager for a given fiscal quarter and is based on the simplified assumptions described above.

Non-GAAP Metrics Used in Hypothetical Example

As used in this Annual Report, we use hypothetical Equity, Adjusted Capital, Catch-up Amount and Excess Earnings Amount only as measures in the calculation of the financial metrics that we are required to calculate under the terms of the Management Agreement. All of the adjustments made in our calculation of these metrics are adjustments that were made in calculating our performance for purposes of the required financial metrics under the Management Agreement, and are presented in a manner consistent with the reporting of the metrics to the Manager. Additionally, the terms Equity, Adjusted Capital, Core Earnings, Catch-up Amount and Excess Earnings Amount are not defined under GAAP and are not measures of shareholder equity, capitalization, operating income or operating performance presented in accordance with GAAP. Our Equity, Adjusted Capital, Core Earnings, Catch-up Amount and Excess Earnings Amount have limitations as analytical tools, and when assessing our shareholder equity, capitalization, operating income and operating performance, you should not consider Equity, Adjusted Capital, Core Earnings, Catch-up Amount and Excess Earnings Amount in isolation, or as a substitute for shareholder equity, capitalization and operating income or other consolidated income statement data prepared in accordance with GAAP. Additionally, other companies may calculate Equity, Adjusted Capital, Core Earnings, Catch-up Amount and Excess Earnings Amount differently than we do, limiting their usefulness as comparative measures.

Further, we note that, as presented in the above table, Adjusted Capital, Core Earnings, Catch-up Amount and Excess Earnings Amount are hypothetical non-GAAP financial measures and reconciliation of those numbers to the most directly comparable financial measure prepared in accordance with GAAP are not provided in this Annual Report as they are derived from our actual historical financials and are meant to serve as an illustrative tool to assist the investor in understanding how our Manager's fees would be calculated based on hypothetical assumptions pursuant to the terms of the Management Agreement.

Expense Reimbursement

We pay all of our costs and expenses and reimburse our Manager and/or its affiliates for expenses of our Manager and/or its affiliates paid or incurred on our behalf, excepting only those expenses that are specifically the responsibility of our Manager pursuant to our Management Agreement. Pursuant to our Management Agreement, we reimburse our Manager and/or its affiliates, as applicable, for our fair and equitable allocable share of the compensation, including annual base salary, bonus, any related withholding taxes and employee benefits, paid to (i) subject to review by the Compensation Committee of our Board, personnel of our Manager and/or its affiliates, as applicable, serving as our Chief Executive Officer (except when the Chief Executive Officer serves as a member of the Investment Committee prior to the consummation of an internalization transaction of our Manager by us), General Counsel, Chief Compliance Officer, Chief Financial Officer, Chief Marketing Officer, Managing Director and any of our other officers based on the percentage of his or her time spent devoted to our affairs and (ii) other corporate finance, tax, accounting, internal audit, legal, risk management, operations, compliance and other non-investment personnel of the Manager and/or its affiliates who spend all or a portion of their time managing our affairs, with the allocable share of the compensation of such personnel described in this clause (ii) being as reasonably determined by our Manager to appropriately reflect the amount of time spent devoted by such personnel to our affairs. The service by any personnel of our Manager and its affiliates as a member of the Investment Committee will not, by itself, be dispositive in the determination as to whether such personnel is deemed "investment personnel" of our Manager and its affiliates for purposes of expense reimbursement. Prior to the consummation of our IPO, we were not obligated to reimburse our Manager or its affiliates, as applicable, for any compensation paid to Mr. Tannenbaum, Mr. Kalikow or Mrs. Tannenbaum. For the years ended December 31, 2023 and 2022, our Manager did not seek reimbursement for our allocable share of Mr. Kalikow and Mr. Tannenbaum's compensation, but did seek reimbursement for our allocable share of Mrs. Tannenbaum's compensation. Costs and expenses paid or incurred by the Manager on our behalf are reimbursed monthly in cash to the Manager and are made regardless of whether any cash distributions are made to our shareholders.

Termination Fee

Upon termination of our Management Agreement, a Termination Fee will be payable to our Manager by us in cash in the event that (i) we decline to renew our Management Agreement, without cause, upon 180 days prior written notice and the affirmative vote of at least two-thirds of our independent directors that there has been unsatisfactory performance by our Manager that is materially detrimental to us taken as a whole, or (ii) our Management Agreement is terminated by our Manager (effective upon 60 days' prior written notice) based upon our default in the performance or observance of any material term, condition or covenant contained in our Management Agreement and such default continuing for a period of 30 days after written notice thereof specifying such default and requesting that the same be remedied in such 30-day period. The Termination Fee equals three times the sum of (A) the annual Base Management Fee and (B) the annual Incentive Compensation, in each case, earned by our Manager during the 12-month period immediately preceding the most recently completed fiscal quarter prior to the date of termination.

Grants of Equity Compensation to Our Manager

Pursuant to the Stock Incentive Plan, we may grant equity-based awards and incentives to employees or executive officers of our Manager and other eligible awardees under the Stock Incentive Plan from time to time. These equity-based awards under our Stock Incentive Plan create incentives to improve long-term stock price performance and focus on long-term business objectives, create substantial retention incentives for award recipients and enhance our ability to pay compensation based on our overall performance, each of which further align the interests of our Manager and the other eligible awardees with our shareholders.

Our Growth Strategy

Our objective is to provide attractive risk-adjusted returns over time through cash distributions and capital appreciation. We intend to achieve this objective by sourcing, underwriting, structuring and funding loans to state law compliant cannabis companies and commercial real estate owners, operators and related businesses.

We draw upon our Manager's expertise in sourcing, underwriting, structuring and funding capabilities to implement our growth strategy. From January 1, 2020 to December 31, 2023, our Manager and its affiliates have had access to over \$19.4 billion of potential loan opportunities, which we have historically focused on loans to cannabis operators. We believe we continue to be well positioned to take advantage of the capital supply and demand imbalance that exists in the cannabis market as well as the elevated interest rate environment in the commercial real estate market. As the cannabis industry continues to evolve and to the extent that additional states legalize cannabis, the demand for capital is expected to continue to increase as operators seek to enter and build out new markets. We provide borrowers an institutional and flexible alternative for financing. As we continue to grow our available capital, we believe we can commit to additional transactions with strong risk-adjusted returns to diversify our portfolio.

In connection with, and effective upon the Spin-Off, the Amended and Restated Management Agreement will be amended to update the investment guidelines to focus on our investments in first and second lien loans, typically secured by mortgages and other security interests, to cannabis operators in states that have legalized medical and/or adult use cannabis. Therefore, the investment guidelines will no longer include loans and investments made in respect of (x) first lien or second lien loans secured by mortgages or mezzanine loans to commercial real estate owners, operators and related businesses and (y) the ownership of non-cannabis related commercial real estate assets. Our Manager regularly evaluates our loans and we currently retain an independent third-party valuation firm to provide input on the valuation of unquoted assets, which our Manager considers along with various other subjective and objective factors when making any such evaluation. The collateral underlying our loans is located in states in the U.S. that we believe have attractive regulatory environments for companies operating in the cannabis industry, economic conditions and commercial real estate fundamentals.

Key elements of our strategy include:

- Targeting loans for origination and/or investment that typically have the following characteristics:
 - principal balance greater than \$10.0 million;
 - real estate collateral coverage of at least one times the principal balance;
 - secured by commercial real estate properties; and
 - well-capitalized sponsors with substantial experience in particular relevant sectors and geographic markets.
- Diversifying our financing sources with increased access to equity and debt capital, which may provide us with a lower overall cost of funding and the ability to hold larger loan sizes, among other things.

Underwriting and Investment Process

Pursuant to the Management Agreement, our Manager manages our loans and day-to-day operations, subject at all times to the further terms and conditions set forth in the Management Agreement and such further limitations or parameters as may be imposed from time to time by our Board.

Our Manager's rigorous underwriting and investment process enables us to source, screen and ultimately provide debt capital to (i) established cannabis industry participants in states that have legalized medical and/or adult use cannabis and (ii) well-capitalized real estate sponsors in the commercial real estate sector. Our Manager as well as our management team provided by our Manager and our Board strive to be attuned to the macro-environment and political environment as they relate to the lending and cannabis industries and the commercial real estate sector.

We expect to benefit from the tested method of capital allocation and on-going investment monitoring developed by our Manager. The primary objectives of the investment process are for it to be repeatable, dependable, and able to produce attractive risk-adjusted returns. The primary components of the investment process are as follows:

Origination	Underwriting	Investment Committee	Legal Documentation and Post-Closing
• Direct origination platform works to create enhanced yields and allows us to put in greater controls for loans in which our Manager originates and structures	• Disciplined underwriting process leads to a highly selective approach	• Focused on managing credit risk through comprehensive investment review process	• Investment team works alongside external counsel to negotiate credit agreements and collateral liens
• Platform drives increased deal flow, which provides for improved loan selectivity	• Potential loans are screened based on four key criteria: company profile, state dynamics, regulatory matters and real estate asset considerations	• The Investment Committee must approve each loan before commitment papers are issued	• Emphasis is placed on financial covenants and limitations on actions that may be adverse to lenders
• Allows for specific portfolio construction and a focus on higher quality companies • For the commercial real estate pipeline, as of March 1, 2024 since June 1, 2022, we had 29 active loans in our pipeline at various stages in the diligence process, and we had passed on 396 of 432 sourced loan opportunities due to, among other reasons, nontarget location, high loan to cost, purchase price and/or value, insufficient equity, inexperienced sponsor and lack of net operating income • For the cannabis pipeline, as of March 1, 2024 since January 1, 2020, we had 10 active loans in our pipeline at various stages in the diligence process, and we had passed on 752 of 808 sourced loan opportunities due to, among other reasons, lack of collateral, lack of cash flow, stage of company, state dynamics and lack of cash flow	• Other tools that we frequently use to verify data include, but are not limited to: appraisals, quality of earnings, environmental reports, site visits, construction review, anti-money laundering compliance, comparable company analyses and background checks	• Members of the Investment Committee currently include: Leonard M. Tannenbaum, Daniel Neville, Bernard D. Berman and Robyn Tannenbaum.	• Portfolio is proactively managed to monitor ongoing performance, in some instances, through seats on borrowers' boards of directors or board observer rights

Our Manager's origination team meets regularly to evaluate new loan opportunities, employing a highly collaborative approach to investing. Upon its receipt of an actionable request, our Manager's deal team prepares a standardized memorandum (an "Early Read Memorandum") that serves as the initial recommendation to the Investment Committee with respect to initially pursuing such opportunity. This Early Read Memorandum contains key property metrics, typically including, without limitation, property characteristics, preliminary loan terms and structure. Our Manager's origination team takes a bottom-up, enterprise value-oriented approach to underwriting, focusing on collateral valuation, multiple exit strategies and downside principal protection. The goal of our Manager is to identify key issues and decisions early in the process, including, without limitation, issues relating to the preliminary pricing, asset quality, market, borrower or capital structure.

Our Manager also evaluates the Early Read Memorandum prepared by the deal team to evaluate the likely financing terms, comparable market transactions and the impact of the loan on our overall portfolio construction from a diversification and return standpoint. Loans are priced based on our Manager's view of risk and market conditions. Our Manager confirms that the applicable pricing generates an appropriate expected return on any given loan. Key model inputs typically include: the loan's credit spread; OID and exit fees (if any); the timing and amount of future funding; the expected tenor and cost of asset-level financing; expected timing of repayments; likelihood of a loan extension past initial maturity; extension fees (if any); the cost of servicing; and an estimate of our management, general and administrative expenses. Model assumptions and pricing methodology are adjusted as needed based on prevailing market conditions, investor sentiment and activity and portfolio allocations and concentrations at the time of pricing. Returns on targets are not a reliable indicator of future performance and no guarantee or assurance is given that such returns will be achieved or that an investment will not result in losses. Target return rates are based on our good faith and reasonable assumptions. Actual events or conditions may differ materially from these assumptions, and therefore, actual returns could be substantially lower.

Competition

We operate in a competitive market for the origination and acquisition of attractive lending opportunities. We compete with a variety of institutional investors, including other REITs, debt funds, specialty finance companies, savings and loan associations, banks, mortgage bankers, insurance companies, investment banking firms, financial institutions, private equity and hedge funds, and other entities. Some of our competitors are substantially larger and have considerably greater financial, technical and marketing resources than we do. Several of our competitors, including other REITs, have recently raised, or are expected to raise, significant amounts of capital and may have investment objectives that overlap with our investment objectives, which may create additional competition for lending and other investment opportunities. Some of our competitors may have a lower cost of funds and access to funding sources that may not be available to us or are only available to us on substantially less attractive terms. Many of our competitors are not subject to the operating constraints associated with REIT tax compliance or maintenance of an exemption from the Investment Company Act. In addition, some of our competitors may have higher risk tolerances or different risk assessments, which could allow them to consider a wider variety of investments and establish more lending relationships than we do. Competition may result in realizing fewer investments, higher prices, acceptance of greater risk, greater defaults, lower yields or a narrower spread of yields over our borrowing costs. In addition, competition for attractive investments could delay the investment of our capital.

In the face of this competition, we have access to our Manager's professionals and their financing industry expertise and relationships, which may provide us with a competitive advantage in competing effectively for attractive investment opportunities and help us assess risks and determine appropriate pricing for certain potential investments. We also believe we have a more flexible funding structure than our competitors with typical REIT land ownership models, given our ability to redeploy funds more quickly. The duration of our loans, as compared to the length of leases usually employed by REIT land ownership models, allows us to redeploy our capital with more flexibility as market changes occur instead of being locked in for longer periods of time. This model also allows our borrowers to retain control of their real estate assets, which is important to their businesses and allows for more flexibility regarding their capital structure. Although we believe our Manager's expertise and our flexible funding structure provide us with valuable competitive advantages, we may not be able to achieve our business goals or expectations due to the competitive risks that we face.

Regulatory Environment

Our operations are subject to regulation, supervision, and licensing under various United States, state, provincial, and local statutes, ordinances and regulations. In general, lending is a highly regulated industry in the United States and we are required to comply with, among other statutes and regulations relating to lending and to the cannabis industry, certain provisions of the Equal Credit Opportunity Act, the USA Patriot Act, regulations promulgated by the Office of Foreign Asset Control, and U.S. federal and state securities laws and regulations. In addition, certain states have adopted laws or regulations that may, among other requirements, require licensing of lenders and financiers, prescribe disclosures of certain contractual terms, impose limitations on interest rates and other charges, and limit or prohibit certain collection practices and creditor remedies. Last, because our borrowers are engaged in commercial cannabis activities in the U.S., our operations are also subject to federal and state laws relating to cannabis. We are required to comply with the applicable laws and regulations in the states in which we do business. We actively monitor proposed changes to relevant legal and regulatory requirements in order to maintain our compliance.

The Dodd-Frank Act

The Dodd-Frank Act made significant structural reforms to the financial services industry. For example, pursuant to the Dodd-Frank Act, various federal agencies have promulgated, or are in the process of promulgating, regulations with respect to various issues that may affect our Company. Certain regulations have already been adopted and others remain under consideration by various governmental agencies, in some cases past the deadlines set in the Dodd-Frank Act for adoption. It is possible that regulations that will be adopted in the future will apply to us or that existing regulations that are currently not applicable to us will begin to apply to us as our business evolves.

Investment Company Act

We have not been and are not currently required to be registered under the Investment Company Act pursuant to Section 3(c)(5) (the "Section 3(c)(5) Exemption") of the Investment Company Act.

Section 3(a)(1)(A) of the Investment Company Act defines an investment company as any issuer that is or holds itself out as being engaged primarily in the business of investing, reinvesting or trading in securities. Section 3(a)(1)(C) of the Investment Company Act defines an investment company as any issuer that is engaged or proposes to engage in the business of investing, reinvesting, owning, holding or trading in securities and owns or proposes to acquire investment securities having a value exceeding 40% of the value of the issuer's total assets (exclusive of U.S. government securities and cash items) on an unconsolidated basis, which we refer to as the 40% test. Real estate mortgages are excluded from the term "investment securities."

We rely on the Section 3(c)(5) Exemption, which excludes from the definition of investment company "[a]ny person who is not engaged in the business of issuing redeemable securities, face-amount certificates of the installment type or periodic payment plan certificates, and who is primarily engaged in one or more of the following businesses . . . (C) purchasing or otherwise acquiring mortgages and other liens on and interests in real estate." The SEC generally requires that, for the exception provided by the Section 3(c)(5) Exemption to be available, at least 55% of an entity's assets be comprised of mortgages and other liens on and interests in real estate, also known as "qualifying interests," and at least another 25% of the entity's assets must be comprised of additional qualifying interests or real estate-type interests (with no more than 20% of the entity's assets comprised of miscellaneous assets). We believe we qualify for the exemption under this section and our current intention is to continue to focus on originating and investing in loans collateralized by real estate so that at least 55% of our assets are "qualifying interests" and no more than 20% of our assets are miscellaneous assets. However, if, in the future, we do acquire assets that do not meet this test, we may qualify as an "investment company" and be required to register as such under the Investment Company Act, which could have a material adverse effect on us.

The Investment Company Act provides certain protections and imposes certain restrictions on registered investment companies, none of which are currently applicable to us. Our governing documents do not permit any transfer of shares of our common stock that would result in us becoming subject to regulation as an investment company. If we were required to register as an investment company under the Investment Company Act, we would become subject to substantial regulation with respect to our capital structure (including our ability to use leverage), management, operations, transactions with affiliated persons (as defined in the Investment Company Act), portfolio composition, including restrictions with respect to diversification and industry concentration, and other matters.

Federal Laws Applicable to the Regulated Cannabis Industry

Cannabis (with the exception of hemp containing no more than 0.3% THC by dry weight) is illegal under U.S. federal law. The U.S. federal government regulates drugs through the Controlled Substances Act of 1970, as amended (21 U.S.C. § 801, et seq.) (the “CSA”). Although cannabis remains illegal at the federal level, all but nine states now have some form of cannabis legalization, and more than half of the country’s population live in states that allows for “adult use” of cannabis leading to even more widespread commercialization of cannabis by licensed entities. Additionally, the federal government has made several public statements around state legalization, discussed below, that indicate a willingness to allow the state programs to continue to develop, and, further federal reforms are expected over the next several years. Consistent with that, the federal government has chosen not to interfere with the state-regulated cannabis programs and has not brought criminal enforcement against state law compliant cannabis licensees or those doing business with them for the past nine years.

Nonetheless, the federal government could enforce U.S. drug laws against non-medical companies operating in accordance with state cannabis laws, including our borrowers, creating a climate of legal uncertainty regarding the production and sale of cannabis. Unless and until Congress amends the CSA with respect to cannabis (and the President approves such amendment), there is a risk that the federal law enforcement authorities responsible for enforcing the CSA, including the U.S. Department of Justice (“DOJ”) and the Drug Enforcement Agency (“DEA”), may reverse course and strictly enforce current federal law against state law compliant cannabis companies.

Any change in the federal government’s enforcement posture with respect to state-licensed commercialization of cannabis, including the enforcement postures of individual federal prosecutors in judicial districts where our borrowers are located, could result in significant losses for our borrowers, and we would likely suffer losses with respect to our investment in such borrowers, which would adversely affect the trading price of our securities. For more information on regulatory risks, see “*Risk Factors—Risks Related to the Cannabis Industry and Related Regulations* .”

State Regulation of the Cannabis Industry

Forty-one states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, and Guam have legalized the commercial sale of cannabis for certain medical purposes. Twenty-four of those states, the District of Columbia, Guam, and Northern Mariana have legalized cannabis for adults for non-medical purposes as well (sometimes referred to as adult or recreational use). In most states that have legalized cannabis in some form, the growing, processing and/or dispensing of cannabis is highly regulated and requires that the operator obtain one or more licenses in accordance with applicable state requirements. Local governments in some cases also impose rules and regulations on the manner of operating cannabis businesses. As a result, applicable state and local laws and regulations vary widely, including, but not limited to, who can purchase and grow cannabis, the forms and potencies of cannabis products allowed, product testing, the level of enforcement by state and local authorities on non-licensed cannabis operators, state and local taxation of regulated cannabis products, and local municipality bans on operations and operator licensing processes.

Because cannabis is such a highly regulated industry, we expect a significant amount of our borrower’s management’s time and external resources will be used to comply with the laws, regulations and guidelines that impact their business, and changes thereto, and such compliance may place a significant burden on such management and other resources of our borrowers. Complying with multiple regulatory regimes will require additional resources and may limit our borrowers’ ability to expand into certain jurisdictions. Furthermore, we cannot predict the nature of any future laws, regulations, interpretations or applications, and it is possible that regulations may be enacted in the future that will be materially adverse to the business of our borrowers, and thus materially impact our investments as well.

Human Capital

We are externally-managed by our Manager and do not have any employees. Our officers also serve as officers or employees of our Manager and/or its affiliates. Our Manager’s employees have extensive financing capabilities and experience in originating, underwriting and managing real estate and cash flow financings. We believe our relationship with our Manager provides us with an robust relationship network of cannabis industry operators and commercial real estate owners, operators and related businesses as well as significant back-office personnel to assist in origination and management of loans.

Our Manager’s employees are a valuable asset to our operations, and we believe each person is an integrated member of the team and is meaningful to our continued success. Our Manager’s team meets regularly as a full team where each member is encouraged to actively participate in a wide range of topics relating to our operations.

We believe that our Manager's ability to attract, develop, engage and retain key personnel is essential to our operations. While we are a young company, having commenced operations in July 2020 and completed our IPO in March 2021, we believe our Manager provides a committed team of employees with substantial experience in each aspect of our operations, including cash flow and real estate lending, construction and real estate development, portfolio management, corporate finance and capital markets.

Additional Information

We file with or submit to the SEC annual, quarterly, and current periodic reports, proxy statements and other information meeting the informational requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (the "Exchange Act"). This information is available on our website at www.afcgamma.com. The information on our website is not, and shall not be deemed to be, a part of this Annual Report or incorporated into any other filings that we make with the SEC. These documents also may be accessed through the SEC's electronic data gathering, analysis and retrieval system via electronic means, including on the SEC's homepage, which can be found at www.sec.gov.

Item 1A. Risk Factors

Risk Factor Summary

Our business and our ability to execute our strategy are subject to many risks. Before making a decision to invest in our common stock, you should carefully consider all of the risks and uncertainties described in the risks set forth below. These risks include, but are not limited to, the following:

- We were recently formed and have limited operating history, and may not be able to successfully operate our business, integrate new assets and/or manage our growth or to generate sufficient revenue to make or sustain distributions to our shareholders.
- Competition for the capital that we provide may reduce the return of our loans, which could adversely affect our operating results and financial condition.
- Our growth and success depends on our external manager, its key personnel and investment professionals, and its ability to make loans on favorable terms that satisfy our investment strategy and otherwise generate attractive risk-adjusted returns; thus, we may experience losses if our external manager overestimates projected yields or incorrectly prices the risks of our loans or if there are any adverse changes in our relationship with our Manager.
- Lending to companies operating in the cannabis industry which involves significant risks, including the risk of strict enforcement of federal cannabis laws against our borrowers, our borrowers' inability to renew or otherwise maintain their licenses or other requisite authorizations for their cannabis operations, and lack of liquidity for such loans.
- Our ability to grow or maintain our business depends in part on state laws pertaining to the cannabis industry. New laws that are adverse to our borrowers may be enacted, and current favorable state or national laws or enforcement guidelines relating to cultivation, production and distribution of cannabis may be modified or eliminated in the future, which would impede our ability to grow our business under our current business plan and could materially adversely affect our business.
- As a debt investor, we are often not in a position to exert influence on borrowers, and the shareholders and management of such companies may make decisions that could decrease the value of loans made to such borrower.
- Our growth depends on external sources of capital, which may not be available on favorable terms or at all.
- Interest rate fluctuations could increase our financing costs, which could lead to a significant decrease in our results of operations, cash flows and the market value of our loans.
- Maintenance of our exemption from registration under the Investment Company Act may impose significant limits on our operation, and failure to maintain our exempt status under the Investment Company Act could have an adverse effect on our financial results.
- Failure to qualify as a REIT for U.S. federal income tax purposes would cause us to be taxed as a regular corporation, which would substantially reduce funds available for distributions to our shareholders.
- We may incur significant debt, and our governing documents and current credit facility contain no limit on the amount of debt we may incur.

- We may in the future pay distributions from sources other than our cash flow from operations, including borrowings, offering proceeds or the sale of assets, which means we will have less funds available for investments or less income-producing assets and your overall return may be reduced.

If any of the factors enumerated above or in “*Risk Factors*” occurs, our business, financial condition, liquidity, results of operations and prospects could be materially and adversely affected. In that case, the trading price of our common stock could decline, and you may lose some or all of your investment.

Set forth below are the risks that we believe are material to our business. Any of these risks could significantly and adversely affect our business, financial condition and results of operations. You should carefully consider the risks described below, together with the other information included in this Annual Report, including the information contained under the caption “Special Note Regarding Forward-Looking Statements”.

Risks Related to Our Business and Growth Strategy

We were recently formed and have limited operating history, and may not be able to operate our business successfully or to generate sufficient revenue to make or sustain distributions to our shareholders.

We were formed on July 6, 2020, began operations on July 31, 2020, and have limited operating history. As of December 31, 2023, our portfolio consisted of loans to 12 different borrowers (such portfolio, our “Existing Portfolio”). We are subject to all of the business risks and uncertainties associated with any new business, including the risk that we will not achieve our investment objectives and that the value of your investment could decline substantially. We cannot assure you that we will be able to operate our business successfully or profitably, or implement our operating policies. Our ability to provide attractive returns to our shareholders is dependent on our ability both to generate sufficient cash flow to pay our investors attractive distributions and to achieve capital appreciation, and we cannot assure you that we will be able to do either. There can be no assurance that we will be able to generate sufficient revenue from operations to pay our operating expenses and make or sustain distributions to shareholders. Our limited resources may also materially and adversely impact our ability to successfully implement our business plan. The results of our operations and the implementation of our business plan depend on several factors, including the availability of opportunities to make loans, the availability of adequate equity and debt financing, the performance of the commercial real estate sector (which are described below under “*Risks Related to the Commercial Real Estate Sector*”), the federal and state regulatory environment relating to the cannabis industry (which are described below under “*Risks Related to the Cannabis Industry and Related Regulations*”), conditions in the financial markets and economic conditions.

Competition for the capital that we provide may reduce the return of our loans, which could adversely affect our operating results and financial condition.

We compete as an institutional lender to commercial real estate owners, operators and related businesses, with a specialization in debt financing to cannabis industry operators in states that have legalized medical and/or adult-use cannabis. An increasing number of competitors have recently entered the marketplace, and these competitors may prevent us from making attractive loans on favorable terms. We expect over time that the increasing number of competitors will likely result in yields that are lower than our current yields. Our competitors may have greater resources than we do and may be able to compete more effectively as a capital provider. In particular, larger companies may enjoy significant competitive advantages that result from, among other things, a lower cost of capital and enhanced operating efficiencies.

Additionally, some of our competitors may have higher risk tolerances or different risk assessments, which could allow them to consider a wider variety of loans, deploy more aggressive pricing and establish more relationships than us. Our competitors may also adopt loan structures similar to ours, which would decrease our competitive advantage in offering flexible loan terms. In addition, due to a number of factors (including but not limited to potentially greater clarity and/or unification of the laws and regulations governing cannabis by states and the federal government including through federal legislation or rescheduling or descheduling of cannabis, which may, in turn, encourage additional federally-chartered banks to provide their services to cannabis-related businesses), the number of entities and the amount of funds competing to provide suitable capital may increase, resulting in loans with terms less favorable to us. Moreover, we strategically benefit from the cannabis industry’s currently constrained access to U.S. capital markets and if such access is broadened, including if the New York Stock Exchange (the “NYSE”) and/or the Nasdaq Stock Market were to permit the listing of plant-touching cannabis companies in the U.S., the demand among U.S. cannabis companies for private equity investments and debt financings, including our target loans, may materially decrease and could result in our competing with financial institutions that we otherwise would not. Any of the foregoing may lead to a decrease in our profitability, and you may experience a lower return on your investment. Increased competition in providing capital may also preclude us from making those loans that would generate attractive returns to us.

If we are unable to successfully integrate new assets and manage our growth, our results of operations and financial condition may suffer.

We may in the future significantly increase the size and/or change the mix of our portfolio of assets. We may be unable to successfully and efficiently integrate new assets into our existing portfolio or otherwise effectively manage our assets or our growth effectively. In addition, increases in our portfolio of assets and/or changes in the mix of our assets may place significant demands on our Manager's administrative, operational, asset management, financial and other resources. Any failure to manage increases in size effectively could adversely affect our results of operations and financial condition.

We will allocate our cash on hand and the proceeds of our financing activities without input from our shareholders.

While we intend to use our cash on hand and the proceeds from our financing activities to originate and participate in commercial loans and other debt investments to companies operating in the cannabis industry, as well as equity interest in real estate investment trusts, in each case, that are consistent with our investment strategy, our shareholders will not be able to evaluate the exact manner in which our cash or the proceeds from our financing activities will be invested in the future or the economic merit of our future loans and other debt investments. As a result, we may use our cash on hand and/or the proceeds from our financing activities to invest in loans with which our shareholders may not agree. Additionally, our loans will be selected by our Manager with input from the members of the Investment Committee, and our shareholders will not have input into such investment decisions. Both of these factors will increase the uncertainty, and thus the risk, of investing in our securities. The failure of our Manager to apply our cash and/or the proceeds of our financing activities effectively or to find loans that meet our loan criteria in sufficient time or on acceptable terms could result in unfavorable returns, could cause a material adverse effect on our business, financial condition, liquidity, results of operations and ability to make distributions to our shareholders, and could cause the value of our securities to decline.

Pending application of our cash on hand and the proceeds of any financing activities, we may invest such cash and proceeds in interest-bearing, short-term investments, including money market accounts or funds, commercial mortgage-backed securities, corporate bonds, certain debt securities (including seller notes), equity interests of real estate investment trusts and other investments, which are consistent with our intention to qualify as a REIT and to maintain our exemption from registration under the Investment Company Act. These investments would be expected to provide a lower net return than we seek to achieve from investment in our target loans and investments. We expect to reallocate any such investments into our target portfolio within specified time frames, subject to the availability of appropriate investment opportunities. Our Manager intends to conduct due diligence with respect to each investment and suitable investment opportunities may not be immediately available. Even if opportunities are available, there can be no assurance that our Manager's due diligence processes will uncover all relevant facts or that any investment will be successful.

We cannot assure you that (i) we will be able to enter into definitive agreements to invest in any new loans or other investments that meet our investment objectives, (ii) we will be successful in consummating any investment opportunities we identify or (iii) any of the investment we may make using our cash on hand and proceeds of any financing activities will yield attractive risk-adjusted returns. Our inability to do any of the foregoing likely would materially and adversely affect our business and our ability to make distributions to our shareholders.

Our loans' lack of liquidity may adversely affect our business.

Our Existing Portfolio includes, and our future loans will likely include, loans to private companies, which are less liquid than publicly traded securities. Certain of our target investments such as secured loans are also particularly illiquid due to a variety of factors, which may include a short life, potential unsuitability for securitization and greater difficulty of recovery in the event of a default or insolvency by the company to which we have provided a loan. The illiquidity of our loans may make it difficult for us to sell such loans if the need or desire arises. Further, applicable laws and regulations restricting the ownership and transferability of loans to regulated cannabis companies in conjunction with many parties not wishing to invest in cannabis businesses as a result of cannabis being federally illegal may make it difficult for us to sell or transfer such loans to third parties. In addition, many of the loans we make, to the extent they constitute securities, will not be registered under the relevant securities laws, resulting in a prohibition against their transfer, sale, pledge or disposition except in a transaction that is exempt from the registration requirements of, or otherwise in accordance with, those laws. As a result, we may be unable to dispose of such loans in a timely manner or at all. If we are required and able to liquidate all or a portion of our portfolio quickly, we could realize significantly less value than that which we had previously recorded for our loans and we cannot assure you that we will be able to sell our assets at a profit in the future. Further, we may face other restrictions on our ability to liquidate a loan in a company to the extent that we or our Manager have or could be attributed as having material, non-public information regarding such company. Our ability to vary our portfolio in response to changes in economic, regulatory and other conditions or changes in our strategic plan may therefore be relatively limited, which could adversely affect our results of operations and financial condition.

Our Existing Portfolio is, and our future portfolio may be, concentrated in a limited number of loans, which subjects us to an increased risk of significant loss if any asset declines in value or if a particular borrower fails to perform as expected.

Our Existing Portfolio is, and our future loans may be, concentrated in a limited number of loans in a limited number of sectors. The cannabis industry is experiencing significant consolidation, which we expect to increase, among cannabis operators and certain of our borrowers may combine, increasing the concentration of our borrower portfolio with those consolidated operators. If a significant loan to one or more companies fails to perform as expected, such a failure could have a material adverse effect on our business, financial condition and operating results, and the magnitude of such effect could be more significant than if we had further diversified our portfolio. A consequence of this limited number of loans is that the aggregate returns we realize may be significantly adversely affected if a small number of loans perform poorly, if we need to write down the value of any one loan, if a loan is repaid prior to maturity and we are not able to promptly redeploy the proceeds and/or if an issuer is unable to obtain and maintain commercial success. While we intend to diversify our portfolio of loans as we deem prudent, we do not have fixed guidelines for diversification. As a result, our portfolio could be concentrated in relatively few loans and in a limited number of borrowers.

Our portfolio of loans is, and in the future may be, concentrated in certain property types or in particular industries, such as cannabis or commercial real estate (until the anticipated Spin-Off effective date), that are subject to higher risk of foreclosure, or secured by properties concentrated in a limited number of geographic locations. Economic and business downturns relating generally to such region or type of asset may result in defaults on a number of our loans within a short time period, which may reduce our net income and the value of our common stock and accordingly reduce our ability to pay dividends to our shareholders. Declining real estate values may reduce the level of new mortgage and other real estate-related loan originations since borrowers often use appreciation in the value of their existing properties to support the purchase of or investment in additional properties. Borrowers may also be less able to pay principal and interest on our loans if the value of real estate weakens and/or the interest rates at which loans can be profitably made increases. Further, declining real estate values significantly increase the likelihood that we will incur losses on our loans in the event of default because the value of our collateral may be insufficient to cover our cost on the loan. Any sustained period of increased payment delinquencies, forbearance, foreclosures or losses could adversely affect both our net interest income from loans in our portfolio as well as our ability to originate/acquire/sell loans, which could have a material adverse effect on our business, financial condition and operating results.

We may lend to multiple borrowers that share a common sponsor. We do not have a limit on the amount that can be held by multiple borrowers that share the same sponsor. We may face greater credit risk to the extent a large portion of our portfolio is concentrated in loans to multiple borrowers that share the same sponsor.

Our Existing Portfolio contains loans to companies with operations that are geographically concentrated in Arizona, Connecticut, Georgia, Illinois, Iowa, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Missouri, Nevada, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, Ohio and Pennsylvania, and we will be subject to social, political and economic risks of doing business in those states and any other state in which we in the future have lending exposure.

Our Existing Portfolio contains loans to companies with operations that are geographically concentrated in Arizona, Connecticut, Georgia, Illinois, Iowa, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Missouri, Nevada, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, Ohio and Pennsylvania. Circumstances and developments related to operations in these markets that could negatively affect our business, financial condition, liquidity and results of operations include, but are not limited to, the following factors:

- the development and growth of applicable state cannabis markets (for example, the increase in additional dispensaries in certain states have diluted the value of the pre-existing dispensaries);
- the responsibility of complying with multiple and likely conflicting state and federal laws, including with respect to retail sale, distribution, cultivation and manufacturing of cannabis, licensing, banking, and insurance;
- unexpected changes in regulatory requirements and other laws, in particular licensing requirements;
- difficulties and costs of managing operations in certain locations;
- potentially adverse tax consequences;
- the impact of national, regional or state specific business cycles and economic instability; and
- access to capital may be more restricted, or unavailable on favorable terms or at all in certain locations.

Loans to relatively new and/or small companies and companies operating in the cannabis industry generally involve significant risks.

We primarily provide loans to established companies operating in the cannabis industry, but because the cannabis industry is relatively new and rapidly evolving, some of our loans may be with relatively new and/or small companies. Loans to relatively new and/or small companies and companies operating in the cannabis industry generally involve a number of significant risks, including, but not limited to, the following:

- these companies may have limited financial resources and may be unable to meet their obligations, which may be accompanied by a deterioration in the value of any collateral securing our loan, a reduction in the likelihood of us realizing a return on our loan or the need to recognize a partial or complete loss on our loan;
- they typically have shorter operating histories, narrower product lines and smaller market shares than larger and more established businesses, which tend to render them more vulnerable to competitors' actions and market conditions (including conditions in the cannabis industry), as well as general economic downturns;
- they typically depend on the management talents and efforts of a small group of persons; therefore, the death, disability, resignation or termination of one or more of these persons could have a material adverse effect on such borrower and, in turn, on us;
- there are a limited number of management teams in the cannabis industry that have U.S. public company experience. As a result, the management team of a borrower may not be familiar with U.S. securities laws and may have to expend time and resources becoming familiar with such laws;
- there is generally less public information about these companies. Unless publicly traded, these companies and their financial information are generally not subject to the regulations that govern public companies, and we may be unable to uncover all material information about these companies, which may prevent us from making a fully informed lending decision and cause us to lose money on our loans;
- they generally have less predictable operating results and may require substantial additional capital to support their operations, finance expansion or maintain their competitive position;
- there is generally less market forecast information about the cannabis industry, making it difficult for our borrowers to forecast demand. If the market does not develop as a borrower expects, it could have a material adverse effect on its business;
- we, our executive officers and directors and our Manager may, in the ordinary course of business, be named as defendants in litigation arising from our loans to such borrowers and may, as a result, incur significant costs and expenses in connection with such litigation and/or related indemnification obligations;

- changes in laws and regulations, as well as their interpretations, may have a disproportionate adverse effect on their business, financial structure or prospects compared to those of larger and more established companies; and
- they may have difficulty accessing capital from other providers on favorable terms or at all.

For example, the loan parties to the Public Company A loans previously defaulted on certain covenants under the applicable agreements governing their real estate loan and equipment loan in which we have a participation. These defaults resulted from, among other things, the loan parties' failure to timely pay taxes due, incurrence of mechanic's liens and tax liens on assets, failure to notify the lenders of such failure to pay and incurrence of liens, failure to make certain principal and interest payments and pay certain fees, failure to make payment obligations owed to third party creditors and failure to enter into specified debt restructuring transactions. Such defaults were unrelated to the COVID-19 pandemic. Since October 2020, the lenders under the Public Company A real estate loan and equipment loan have, subject to certain terms and conditions, granted a number of forbearances and entered into several modification agreements with Public Company A and the other loan parties. Under our participation agreements with the lenders of the Public Company A loans, the lenders must seek our consent in connection with any modifications to the terms of the Public Company A loans or any forbearance agreements.

The loan parties to the Public Company A loans are currently in default under both the real estate loan documents and the equipment loan documents, including for failure to timely make certain principal and interest payments thereunder. The lenders are in discussions with Public Company A regarding additional modifications to the Public Company A loans. In October 2022, the parent company of Public Company A, which is also a guarantor of the Public Company A loans, along with its Canadian subsidiaries ("Public Company A Affiliates"), filed for bankruptcy protection under the Companies' Creditors Arrangement Act in Canada. As of October 1, 2022, we placed our loan participations involving Public Company A on non-accrual status. During the year ended December 31, 2023, the credit facility with Public Company A matured without repayment. The agent on the credit facility has placed the borrower in default, and we recorded a realized loss of approximately \$(1.2) million relating to the Public Company A real estate loan held at fair value and the Public Company A equipment loan receivable held at carrying value has an outstanding principal amount of approximately \$ 2.0 million as of December 31, 2023.

We may need to foreclose on loans that are in default, which could result in losses.

We may find it necessary to foreclose on loans that are in default. Foreclosure processes are often lengthy and expensive. Results of foreclosure processes may be uncertain, as claims may be asserted by the relevant borrower or by other creditors or investors in such borrower that interfere with enforcement of our rights, such as claims that challenge the validity or enforceability of our loan or the priority or perfection of our security interests. Our borrowers may resist foreclosure actions by asserting numerous claims, counterclaims and defenses against us, including, without limitation, lender liability claims and defenses, even when the assertions may have no merit, in an effort to prolong the foreclosure action and seek to force us into a modification or buy-out of our loan for less than we are owed. Additionally, the transfer of certain collateral to us may be limited or prohibited by applicable laws and regulations. See *"The loans that are in our Existing Portfolio or that we expect to make in the future may be secured by properties, that are, and will be, subject to extensive regulations, such that if such collateral was foreclosed upon those regulations may result in significant costs and materially and adversely affect our business, financial condition, liquidity and results of operations."* For transferable collateral, foreclosure or other remedies available may be subject to certain laws and regulations, including the need for regulatory disclosure and/or approval of such transfer. If federal law were to change to permit cannabis companies to seek federal bankruptcy protection, the applicable borrower could file for bankruptcy, which would have the effect of staying the foreclosure actions and delaying the foreclosure processes and potentially result in reductions or discharges of debt owed to us. Foreclosure may create a negative public perception of the collateral property, resulting in a diminution of its value. Even if we are successful in foreclosing on collateral property securing our loan, the liquidation proceeds upon sale of the underlying real estate may not be sufficient to recover our loan. Any costs or delays involved in the foreclosure or a liquidation of the underlying property will reduce the net proceeds realized and, thus, increase the potential for loss.

In the event a borrower defaults on any of its obligations to us and such debt obligations are equitized, we do not intend to directly hold such equity interests, which may result in additional losses on our loans in such entity.

We will not own real estate as long as it is used in the commercial sale of cannabis due to current statutory prohibitions and exchange listing standards, which may delay or limit our remedies in the event that any of our borrowers default under the terms of their loans with us.

Although we have the contractual ability to foreclose on, and take title to, the collateral securing our loans upon a default by the borrower, we will not take title to and own such real estate collateral as long as it is used in cannabis-related operations due to current statutory prohibitions, including Section 856 of the CSA, which relates to the management or control of properties that are used for the manufacturing, distributing or using of any controlled substances. Until that law changes, taking title to real estate used in cannabis-related activities or owning equity in cannabis-related businesses would also violate Nasdaq listing requirements. These restrictions related to real property used in cannabis-related operations may cause significant delays or difficulties in deriving value from those properties. In addition, any alternative uses of cannabis-related properties may be limited due to the specialized nature of the facilities or may be less profitable than the cannabis-related operations, which would adversely affect the value of the collateral securing our loans and could result in the sale of such property at a loss. Because the sale of collateral may be forced upon the borrower at such point when time may be of the essence, and the assets may be made available to a limited number of potential purchasers, particularly in those limited-license states in which we focus, the sales prices may be less than the prices obtained with more time in a larger market. Any of the foregoing could have a material adverse effect on our business, financial condition, results of operations and ability to make distributions to our shareholders.

The properties securing our loans may be subject to contingent or unknown liabilities that could adversely affect the value of these properties, and as a result, our loans.

Properties securing our loans may be subject to contingent, unknown or unquantifiable liabilities that may adversely affect the value of our loans. Such defects or deficiencies may include title defects, title disputes, liens or other encumbrances on properties securing our loans to borrowers. The discovery of such unknown defects, deficiencies and liabilities could affect the ability of our borrowers to make payments to us or could affect our ability to foreclose and sell the properties securing such loans, which could adversely affect our results of operations and financial condition. Further, we, our executive officers, directors and our Manager may, in the ordinary course of business, be named as defendants in litigation arising from our loans.

We may in the future foreclose and acquire properties without any recourse, or with only limited recourse, against the prior property owner with respect to contingent or unknown liabilities. As a result, if a claim were asserted against us based on ownership of any of these properties, we may have to pay substantial amounts to defend or settle the claim. If the magnitude of such unknown liabilities is high, individually or in the aggregate, our business, financial condition, liquidity and results of operations would be materially and adversely affected.

Construction loans involve an increased risk of loss.

Our portfolio and current pipeline includes construction loans and we may continue to invest in such loans in the future. If we fail to fund our entire commitment on a construction loan or if a borrower otherwise fails to complete the construction of a project, there could be adverse consequences associated with the loan, including, but not limited to: a loss of the value of the property securing the loan, especially if the borrower is unable to raise funds to complete it from other sources; a borrower's claim against us for failure to perform under the loan documents; increased costs to the borrower that the borrower is unable to pay; a bankruptcy filing by the borrower; and abandonment by the borrower of the collateral for the loan.

Our investments in construction loans require us to make estimates about the fair value of land improvements that may be challenged by the Internal Revenue Service.

We invest in construction loans, the interest from which would be qualifying income for purposes of the gross income tests applicable to REITs, provided that the loan value of the real property securing the construction loan was equal to or greater than the highest outstanding principal amount of the construction loan during any taxable year. For purposes of construction loans, the loan value of the real property is generally the fair value of the land plus the reasonably estimated cost of the improvements or developments (other than personal property) that secure the loan and that are to be constructed from the proceeds of the loan. There can be no assurance that the Internal Revenue Service ("IRS") would not challenge our estimates of the loan values of the real property.

Our borrowers may be unable to renew or otherwise maintain their licenses or other requisite authorizations for their cannabis operations, which may result in such borrowers not being able to operate their businesses and defaulting on their payments to us.

Our borrowers operating in state-regulated cannabis markets are required to maintain the requisite state and local cannabis licenses and other authorizations on a continuous basis. If one or more of these borrowers are unable to renew or otherwise maintain its licenses or other state and local authorizations necessary to continue its cannabis operations, such borrowers may default on their payments to us. Any payment defaults by a borrower could adversely affect our cash flows and we may also experience delays in enforcing our rights as a lender and may incur substantial costs in protecting our investment.

If our Manager overestimates the yields or incorrectly prices the risks of our loans, we may experience losses.

Our Manager values our potential loans based on yields and risks, taking into account estimated future losses and the collateral securing a potential loan, if any, and the estimated impact of these losses on expected future cash flows, returns and appreciation. Our Manager's loss estimates and expectations of future cash flows, returns and appreciation may not prove accurate, as actual results may vary from estimates and expectations. If our Manager underestimates the asset-level losses or overestimates loan yields relative to the price we pay for a particular loan, we may experience losses with respect to such loan.

Some of our portfolio loans may be recorded at fair value and, as a result, there will be uncertainty as to the value of these loans.

Some of our portfolio loans may be in the form of positions or securities that are not publicly traded. The fair value of securities and loans that are not publicly traded may not be readily determinable. Subject to the discretion of the Audit and Valuation Committee of our Board, we may value these loans quarterly, or more frequently as circumstances dictate, at fair value, which may include unobservable inputs. Because such valuations are subjective, the fair value of certain of our assets may fluctuate over short periods of time and our determinations of fair value may differ materially from the values that would have been used if a ready market for these loans existed. Our results of operations for a given period and the value of our securities generally could be adversely affected if our determinations regarding the fair value of these loans were materially higher than the values that we ultimately realize upon their disposal. The valuation process can be particularly challenging, especially if market events make valuations of certain assets more difficult, unpredictable and volatile.

Declines in market prices and liquidity in the capital markets can result in significant net unrealized depreciation of our portfolio, which in turn would reduce our net asset value.

Volatility in the capital markets can adversely affect our loan valuations. Decreases in the market values or fair values of our loans are recorded as unrealized depreciation. The effect of all of these factors on our portfolio can reduce our net asset value (and, as a result our asset coverage calculation) by increasing net unrealized depreciation in our portfolio. Depending on market conditions, we could incur substantial realized and/or unrealized losses, which could have a material adverse effect on our business, financial condition or results of operations.

Provisions for loan losses are difficult to estimate.

In June 2016, the Financial Accounting Standards Board ("FASB") issued Accounting Standards Update ("ASU") No. 2016-13 Financial Instruments — Credit Losses — Measurement of Credit Losses on Financial Instruments (Topic 326) ("ASU No. 2016-13") (the "CECL Standard"). This update changed how entities will measure credit losses for most financial assets and certain other instruments that are not measured at fair value. The CECL Standard replaced the "incurred loss" approach under existing guidance with an "expected loss" model for instruments measured at amortized cost. The CECL Standard requires entities to record allowances ("CECL Allowances") on certain financial assets carried at amortized cost, such as loans held for investment and held-to-maturity debt securities that are deducted from the carrying amount of the assets to present the net carrying value at the amounts expected to be collected on the assets. We have adopted the CECL Standard as of July 31, 2020, the date of commencement of our operations. The CECL Standard can create volatility in the level of our CECL Allowances for loan losses. If we are required to materially increase our level of CECL Allowances for loan losses for any reason, such increase could adversely affect our business, financial condition and results of operations.

Our CECL Allowances are evaluated on a quarterly basis. The determination of CECL Allowances require us to make certain estimates and judgments, which may be difficult to determine. Our estimates and judgments are based on a number of factors, including (i) whether cash from the borrower's operations is sufficient to cover the debt service requirements currently and into the future, (ii) the ability of the borrower to refinance the loan and (iii) the liquidation value of collateral, all of which remain uncertain and are subjective.

The loans and other assets we will obtain may be subject to impairment charges, and we may experience a decline in the fair value of our assets.

We will periodically evaluate the loans we obtain and other assets for impairment indicators. The judgment regarding the existence of impairment indicators is based upon factors such as market conditions, borrower performance and legal structure. If we determine that an impairment has occurred, we would be required to make an adjustment to the net carrying value of the asset which could have an adverse effect on our results of operations in the period in which the impairment charge is recorded.

Such impairment charges reflect non-cash losses at the time of recognition and a subsequent disposition or sale of impaired assets could further affect our future losses or gains as they are based on the difference between the sale price received and the cost of such assets at the time of sale, as may be adjusted for amortization. If we experience a decline in the fair value of our assets, our results of operations, financial condition and our ability to make distributions to our shareholders could be materially and adversely affected.

Any credit ratings assigned to our loans will be subject to ongoing evaluations and revisions, and we cannot assure you that those ratings will not be downgraded.

Some of our loans may be rated by rating agencies such as Moody's Investors Service, Fitch Ratings, Standard & Poor's, DBRS, Inc. or Realpoint LLC. Any credit ratings on our loans are subject to ongoing evaluation by credit rating agencies, and we cannot assure you that any such ratings will not be changed or withdrawn by a rating agency in the future if, in its judgment, circumstances warrant. If rating agencies assign a lower-than-expected rating or reduce or withdraw, or indicate that they may reduce or withdraw, their ratings of our loans in the future, the value of our loans could significantly decline, which would adversely affect the value of our portfolio and could result in losses upon disposition or, in the case of our loans, otherwise imply a potential failure of borrowers to satisfy their debt service obligations to us.

Economic recessions or downturns could impair our borrowers and harm our operating results.

Because the operations of our borrowers are heavily dependent on retail sales, many of our borrowers may be susceptible to economic downturns or recessions and, during such periods, may be unable to satisfy their debt service obligations to us. Therefore, during these periods, our non-performing assets may increase and the value of our portfolio may decrease if we are required to write-down the values of our loans. Adverse economic conditions may also decrease the value of collateral securing some of our loans. Economic slowdowns or recessions could lead to financial losses in our portfolio and a decrease in our revenues, net income and asset values.

A borrower's failure to satisfy financial or operating covenants imposed by us or other creditors could lead to defaults and, potentially, acceleration of the time when its debt obligations are due and foreclosure on its assets representing collateral for its obligations, which could trigger cross-defaults under other agreements and jeopardize our borrower's ability to meet its obligations under the loans that we hold. We may incur expenses to the extent necessary to seek recovery upon default or to negotiate new terms with a defaulting borrower.

Our loans may be risky, and we could lose all or part of our loan.

The debt that we invest in is typically not initially rated by any rating agency, but we believe that if such loans were rated, they would be below investment grade (rated lower than "Baa3" by Moody's Investors Service, lower than "BBB-" by Fitch Ratings or lower than "BBB-" by Standard & Poor's Ratings Services), which under the guidelines established by these entities is an indication of having predominantly speculative characteristics with respect to the underlying company's capacity to pay interest and repay principal. Therefore, certain of our loans may result in an above average amount of risk and volatility or loss of principal. While the loans we invest in are often secured, such security does not guarantee that we will receive principal and interest payments according to the terms of the loan, or that the value of any collateral will be sufficient to allow us to recover all or a portion of the outstanding amount of such loan should we be forced to enforce our remedies.

We may in the future enter into credit agreements with borrowers that may permit them to incur debt that ranks equally with, or senior to, the loans we extend to such companies under such credit agreements.

As of December 31, 2023, all of our borrowers are generally restricted, under our applicable credit agreements with such borrowers, from incurring any debt that ranks equally with, or senior to, our loans. Although our intended investment strategy is to construct a portfolio of loans secured with first priority liens on certain assets of our borrowers, we may in the future enter into credit agreements that rank equally with, or are subordinated to, other debt of our borrowers or that otherwise permit our borrowers to incur other debt that ranks equally with, or senior to, our loans under such credit agreements. In such case, such instruments may, by their terms, provide that the holders of such other debt are entitled to receive payment of interest or principal on or before the dates on which we are entitled to receive payments in respect of our loans. These instruments may prohibit borrowers from paying interest on or repaying our loans in the event and during the continuance of a default under such instrument or upon the occurrence of other specified events. In certain cases, we may, and may continue to, obtain unsecured guarantees from the parent entities or subsidiaries of our borrowers in addition to the collateral provided by such borrowers and such guarantees may be effectively subordinated to any secured debt of any such entities and/or structurally subordinated to any debt of such subsidiaries. Also, in the event of insolvency, liquidation, dissolution, reorganization or bankruptcy of a borrower, holders of securities ranking senior to our loan to that borrower, if any, typically are entitled to receive payment in full before we can receive any distribution in respect of our loan. After repaying such holders, the borrower may not have any remaining assets to use for repaying its obligation to us. In the case of securities or other debt ranking equally with our loans, we would have to share on an equal basis any distributions with other security holders in the event of an insolvency, liquidation, dissolution, reorganization or bankruptcy of the relevant borrower.

Our borrowers may be highly leveraged.

Some of our borrowers may be highly leveraged, which may have adverse consequences to these companies and to us as an investor. These companies may be subject to restrictive financial and operating covenants and the leverage may impair these companies' ability to finance their future operations and capital needs. As a result, these companies' flexibility to respond to changing business and economic conditions and to take advantage of business opportunities may be limited. Further, a leveraged company's income and net assets will tend to increase or decrease at a greater rate than if borrowed money were not used.

There may be circumstances in which our loans could be subordinated to claims of other creditors, or we could be subject to lender liability claims.

If one of our borrowers were to go bankrupt, depending on the facts and circumstances, a bankruptcy court might re-characterize our loan and subordinate all or a portion of our claim to that of other creditors. In addition, we could be subject to lender liability claims if we are deemed to be too involved in a borrower's business or exercise control over such borrower. For example, we could become subject to a lender's liability claim, if, among other things, we actually render significant managerial assistance to a borrower to which we have provided a loan.

As a debt investor, we are often not in a position to exert influence on borrowers, and the shareholders and management of such companies may make decisions that could decrease the value of loans to such borrower.

As a debt investor, we are subject to the risk that a borrower may make business decisions with which we disagree and the shareholders and management of such company may take risks or otherwise act in ways that do not serve our interests. As a result, a borrower may make decisions that could decrease the value of our loan to such borrower.

Due to our borrowers' involvement in the regulated cannabis industry, we and our borrowers have, and may continue to have, a difficult time obtaining or maintaining the various insurance policies that are desired to operate our business, which may expose us to additional risk and financial liabilities.

Insurance that is otherwise readily available, such as workers' compensation, general liability, title insurance and directors' and officers' insurance, is more difficult for us and our borrowers to find and more expensive, because of our borrowers' involvement in the regulated cannabis industry. There are no guarantees that we or our borrowers will be able to find such insurance now or in the future, or that such insurance will be available on economically viable terms. If we or our borrowers are forced to go without such insurance, it may prevent us from entering into certain business sectors, may inhibit our growth, may expose us to additional risk and financial liabilities and, in the case of an uninsured loss, may result in the loss of anticipated cash flow or the value of our loan.

Our insurance policies may not cover all losses.

There are certain types of losses, generally of a catastrophic nature, such as earthquakes, floods, hurricanes, terrorism or acts of war, which may be uninsurable or not economically insurable. Inflation, changes in building codes and ordinances, environmental considerations and other factors, including terrorism or acts of war, also might result in insurance proceeds insufficient to repair or replace an asset if it is damaged or destroyed. Under these circumstances, the insurance proceeds received with respect to an asset relating to one of our loans might not be adequate to restore our economic position with respect to our loan. Any uninsured loss could result in the loss of anticipated cash flow from, and the asset value of, the affected asset and the value of our loan related to such asset.

Subject to the approval of our Board (which must include a majority of our independent directors), our Manager may change our investment strategies or guidelines, financing strategies or leverage policies without the consent of our shareholders.

Subject to the approval of our Board (which must include a majority of our independent directors), our Manager may change our investment strategies or guidelines, financing strategies or leverage policies with respect to loans, originations, acquisitions, growth, operations, indebtedness, capitalization and distributions at any time without the consent of our shareholders, which could result in a portfolio with a different risk profile than that of our Existing Portfolio or of a portfolio comprised of our target loans. A change in our investment strategy may increase our exposure to interest rate risk, default risk and real estate market and cannabis industry fluctuations. Furthermore, a change in our asset allocation could result in our making loans in asset categories different from those described in this Annual Report. These changes could adversely affect our financial condition, results of operations, the market price of our equity and our ability to make distributions to our shareholders.

Changes in laws or regulations governing our operations, including laws and regulations governing cannabis and REITs, changes in the interpretation thereof or newly enacted laws or regulations and any failure by us to comply with these laws or regulations, could require changes to certain of our business practices, negatively impact our operations, cash flow or financial condition, impose additional costs on us or otherwise adversely affect our business.

We are subject to regulation by laws and regulations at the local, state and federal levels, including laws and regulations governing cannabis and REITs by state and federal governments. These laws and regulations, as well as their interpretation, may change from time to time, and new laws and regulations may be enacted. We cannot predict the nature and timing of future laws, regulations, interpretations or applications, or their potential effect. However, any change in these laws or regulations, changes in their interpretation, or newly enacted laws or regulations and any failure by us to comply with current or new laws or regulations or such changes thereto, could require changes to certain of our business practices, negatively impact our operations, cash flow or financial condition, impose additional costs on us or otherwise adversely affect our business.

We may not be able to obtain or maintain required licenses and authorizations to conduct our business and may fail to comply with various state and federal laws and regulations applicable to our business.

In general, lending is a highly regulated industry in the United States and we are required to comply with, among other statutes and regulations, certain provisions of the Equal Credit Opportunity Act of 1974 (the "Equal Credit Opportunity Act") that are applicable to commercial loans, the Uniting and Strengthening America by Providing Appropriate Tools Required to Intercept and Obstruct Terrorism Act of 2001 (the "USA Patriot Act"), regulations promulgated by the Office of Foreign Asset Control, various laws, rules and regulations related to the cannabis industry and U.S. federal and state securities laws and regulations. In addition, certain states have adopted laws or regulations that may, among other requirements, require licensing of lenders and financiers, prescribe disclosures of certain contractual terms, impose limitations on interest rates and other charges, and limit or prohibit certain collection practices and creditor remedies.

There is no guarantee that we will be able to obtain, maintain or renew any required licenses or authorizations, which vary state-to-state, to conduct our business or that we would not experience significant delays in obtaining these licenses and authorizations. As a result, we could be delayed in conducting certain business if we were first required to obtain certain licenses or authorizations or if renewals thereof were delayed. For example, our approval by the State of Ohio Board of Pharmacy, which required background checks and fingerprinting, took over two months to obtain. Furthermore, once licenses are issued and authorizations are obtained, we are required to comply with various information reporting and other regulatory requirements to maintain those licenses and authorizations, and there is no assurance that we will be able to satisfy those requirements or other regulatory requirements applicable to our business on an ongoing basis, which may restrict our business and could expose us to penalties or other claims.

Any failure to obtain, maintain or renew required licenses and authorizations or failure to comply with regulatory requirements that are applicable to our business could result in material fines and disruption to our business and could have a material adverse effect on our business, financial condition, operating results and our ability to make distributions to our shareholders.

Unstable market and economic conditions may have serious adverse consequences on our business, results of operations and financial condition.

Global credit and financial markets have experienced extreme volatility and disruptions recently, including declines in consumer confidence, concerns about declines in economic growth, increases in the rate of inflation, increases in borrowing rates and changes in liquidity and credit availability, and uncertainty about economic stability, including most recently in connection with actions the Federal Reserve Board may take to address inflation and the conflicts in Ukraine and between Israel and Hamas. There can be no assurance that further deterioration in credit and financial markets and confidence in economic conditions will not occur. Our general business strategy may be adversely affected by any such economic downturn, volatile business environment or continued unpredictable and unstable market conditions. Our business could also be impacted by volatility caused by geopolitical events, such as the conflicts in Ukraine and between Israel and Hamas. Such reductions may disproportionately affect our revenue. In addition, if the current equity and credit markets deteriorate, or do not improve, it may make any necessary debt or equity financing more difficult, more costly, and more dilutive. Furthermore, our stock price may decline due in part to the volatility of the stock market and the general economic downturn.

We rely on information technology in our operations, and security breaches and other disruptions in our systems could compromise our information and expose us to liability, which would cause our business and reputation to suffer.

In the ordinary course of our business, we collect and store sensitive data, including intellectual property, our proprietary business information and that of our borrowers and business partners, including personally identifiable information of our borrowers and employees, if any, on our networks. Despite our security measures, our information technology and infrastructure may be vulnerable to attacks by hackers or breached due to employee error, malfeasance or other disruptions. These incidents may be an intentional attack or an unintentional event and could involve gaining unauthorized access to our information systems or those of our borrowers for purposes of misappropriating assets, stealing confidential information, corrupting data or causing operational disruption. Any such breach could compromise our networks and the information stored there could be accessed, publicly disclosed, lost or stolen. The result of these incidents may include disrupted operations, misstated or unreliable financial data, liability for stolen assets or information, increased cybersecurity protection and insurance costs, litigation, damage to business relationships and regulatory fines and penalties. The costs related to cyber or other security threats or disruptions may not be fully insured or indemnified by other means. Although we intend to implement processes, procedures and internal controls to help mitigate cybersecurity risks and cyber intrusions, such measures will not guarantee that a cyber-incident will not occur and/or that our financial results, operations or confidential information will not be negatively impacted by such an incident. In addition, cybersecurity has become a top priority for regulators around the world, and some jurisdictions have enacted laws requiring companies to notify individuals of data security breaches involving certain types of personal data. If we fail to comply with the relevant laws and regulations, we could suffer financial losses, a disruption of our business, liability to investors, regulatory intervention or reputational damage.

The future outbreak of any other epidemic, pandemic or highly infectious or contagious diseases could materially and adversely impact or cause disruption to our borrowers and their operations, and in turn our ability to continue to execute our business plan.

The future outbreak of any other epidemic, pandemic or highly infectious or contagious diseases (including future outbreaks of variants of COVID-19) could have material and adverse effects on our borrowers and their operations, as well as on our performance, financial condition, results of operations and cash flows due to, among other factors:

- a complete or partial closure of, or other operational issues at, one or more of our borrowers' locations resulting from government or such company's actions;
- the temporary inability of consumers and patients to purchase our borrowers' cannabis products due to a number of factors, including, but not limited to, illness, dispensary closures or limitations on operations, quarantine, financial hardship, and "stay at home" orders;

- difficulty accessing equity and debt capital on attractive terms, or at all, and a severe disruption and instability in the global financial markets or deteriorations in credit and financing conditions that may affect our access to capital necessary to fund business operations and our borrowers' ability to fund their business operations and meet their obligations to us;
- because of the federal regulatory uncertainty relating to the regulated cannabis industry, our borrowers being ineligible for financial relief available to other businesses;
- delays in construction at the properties of our borrowers, which may adversely impact their ability to commence operations and generate revenues from projects; and
- the potential negative impact on the health of our personnel, particularly if a significant number of them are impacted, resulting in a deterioration in our ability to ensure business continuity during a disruption.

The extent to which future public health crises ultimately impacts our operations and those of our borrowers will depend on numerous factors that are beyond our control, which are highly uncertain and cannot be predicted at this time. Future public health crises present material uncertainty and risk with respect to our performance, financial condition, results of operations and cash flows.

Risks Related to the Commercial Real Estate Sector

The allocation of capital among our investment opportunities in the commercial real estate sector may vary, which may adversely affect our financial performance.

We have recently expanded our investment guidelines to deploy capital in attractive lending opportunities secured by commercial real estate. Our expanded investment guidelines now include (i) first and second lien loans secured by mortgages to commercial real estate owners, operators and related businesses that are not related to the cannabis industry, (ii) the ownership of non-cannabis related real property assets, and (iii) mortgage-backed securities. The allocation of capital among such investment opportunities may vary due to market conditions, the expected relative return on equity of each activity, the judgment of our management team, the demand in the marketplace for commercial real estate loans and securities and the availability of specific investment opportunities. We also consider the availability and cost of our likely sources of capital. If we fail to appropriately allocate capital and resources across our business lines or fail to optimize our investment and capital raising opportunities, our financial performance may be adversely affected.

The commercial mortgages and other commercial real estate-related loans and the commercial mortgage loans underlying the mortgage-backed securities in which we may invest are subject to the ability of the commercial property to generate net income (and not the independent income or assets of the borrower in the case of mortgage loans). The volatility of real property could have a material adverse effect on our business, financial position and results of operations.

The commercial mortgage loans and other commercial real estate-related loans and the commercial mortgage loans underlying the securities in which we may invest are subject to the ability of the commercial property to generate net income (and not the independent income or assets of the borrower in the case of mortgage loans). Any reductions in net operating income ("NOI") increase the risks of delinquency, foreclosure and default, which could result in losses to us. NOI of an income-producing property can be affected by many factors, including, but not limited to:

- the ongoing need for capital improvements, particularly in older structures;
- changes in operating expenses;
- changes in general or local market conditions;
- changes in tenant mix and performance, the occupancy or rental rates of the property or, for a property that requires new leasing activity, a failure to lease the property in accordance with the projected leasing schedule;
- competition from comparable property types or properties;
- unskilled or inexperienced property management;
- limited availability of mortgage funds or fluctuations in interest rates which may render the sale and refinancing of a property difficult;
- development projects that experience cost overruns or otherwise fail to perform as projected including, without limitation, failure to complete planned renovations, repairs, or construction;

- unanticipated increases in real estate taxes and other operating expenses;
- challenges to the borrower's claim of title to the real property;
- environmental considerations, including liability for testing, monitoring and remediation;
- changes in zoning laws, rent control laws and other similar legal restrictions on property ownership and operation;
- other governmental rules and policies;
- community health issues, including, without limitation, epidemics and pandemics;
- unanticipated structural defects or costliness of maintaining the property;
- uninsured losses, such as possible acts of theft, terrorism, social unrest or civil disturbances;
- a decline in the operational performance of a facility on the real property (such facilities may include multifamily rental facilities, office properties, retail facilities, hospitality facilities, healthcare-related facilities, industrial facilities, warehouse facilities, restaurants, mobile home facilities, recreational or resort facilities, arenas or stadiums, religious facilities, parking lot facilities or other facilities); and
- large-scale fire, earthquake or severe weather-related damage to, or the effect of climate change on, the property and/or its operations.

In addition, as the number of tenants with respect to a commercial property decreases or as tenant spaces on a property must be relet, the nonperformance risk of the loan related to such commercial property may increase. A substantial portion of our portfolio may be committed to the origination or purchasing of commercial loans to small and medium-sized, privately owned businesses. Compared to larger, publicly owned firms, such companies generally have limited access to capital and higher funding costs, may be in a weaker financial position and may need more capital to expand or compete. The above financial challenges may make it difficult for such borrowers to make scheduled payments of interest or principal on their loans. Accordingly, advances made to such types of borrowers entail higher risks than advances made to companies who are able to access traditional credit sources.

The market value of our investments in mortgage-backed securities could fluctuate materially as a result of various risks that are out of our control and may result in significant losses.

We may invest in mortgage-backed securities, a specific type of structured finance security. Mortgage-backed securities are securities backed by obligations (including certificates of participation in obligations) that are principally secured by commercial mortgage loans or interests therein having a multi-family or commercial use, such as retail space, office buildings, industrial or warehouse properties, hotels, nursing homes and senior living centers. Accordingly, investments in mortgage-backed securities are subject to the various risks described herein which relate to the pool of underlying assets in which the mortgage-backed securities represents an interest. The exercise of remedies and successful realization of liquidation proceeds relating to commercial mortgage loans underlying mortgage-backed securities may be highly dependent on the performance of the servicer or special servicer. There may be a limited number of special servicers available, particularly those which do not have conflicts of interest. We will bear the risk of loss on any mortgage-backed securities we purchase. Further, the insurance coverage for various types of losses is limited in amount and we would bear losses in excess of the applicable limitations.

We may attempt to underwrite our investments on a "loss-adjusted" basis, which projects a certain level of performance. However, there can be no assurance that this underwriting will accurately predict the timing or magnitude of such losses. To the extent that this underwriting has incorrectly anticipated the timing or magnitude of losses, our business may be adversely affected. Some mortgage loans underlying mortgage-backed securities may default. Under such circumstances, cash flows of investments held by us may be adversely affected as any reduction in the mortgage payments or principal losses on liquidation of any mortgage loan may be applied to the class of mortgage-backed securities relating to such defaulted loans that we hold.

The market value of our investments could fluctuate materially over time as the result of changes in mortgage spreads, treasury bond interest rates, capital market supply and demand factors, and many other factors that affect high-yield fixed income products. These factors are out of our control, and could influence our ability to obtain short-term financing on mortgage-backed securities. The mortgage-backed securities in which we may invest may have no, or only a limited, trading market. In addition, we may invest in mortgage-backed securities that are not rated by any credit rating agency, and such investments may be less liquid than mortgage-backed securities that are rated, and we may sponsor or purchase junior tranches of mortgage-backed securities issuances or of a mortgage loan, either of which would experience the first loss in the event of a borrower default. The financial markets in the past have experienced and could in the future experience a period of volatility and reduced liquidity which may reoccur or continue and reduce the market value of mortgage-backed securities. Some or all of the mortgage-backed securities we may hold may be subject to restrictions on transfer and may be considered illiquid.

We may be required to make determinations of a borrower's creditworthiness based on incomplete information or information that we cannot verify, which may cause us to purchase or originate loans that we otherwise would not have purchased or originated and, as a result, may negatively impact our business or reputation.

The commercial real estate lending business depends on the creditworthiness of borrowers and, to some extent, the sponsors thereof, which we must judge. In making such judgment, we will depend on information obtained from non-public sources and the borrowers in making many decisions related to our portfolio, and such information may be difficult to obtain or may be inaccurate. As a result, we may be required to make decisions based on incomplete information or information that is impossible or impracticable to verify. A determination as to the creditworthiness of a prospective borrower is based on a wide-range of information. Even if we are provided with full and accurate disclosure of all material information concerning a borrower, we may misinterpret or incorrectly analyze this information, which may cause us to purchase or originate loans that we otherwise would not have purchased or originated and, as a result, may negatively impact our business or the borrower could still defraud us after origination leading to a loss and negative publicity.

Third-party diligence reports on mortgaged properties and the properties we may own are and will be made as of a point in time and are therefore limited in scope.

Appraisals and engineering and environmental reports, as well as a variety of other third-party reports, are generally obtained with respect to each of the properties we may acquire and the mortgaged properties underlying our investments at or about the time of origination. Appraisals are not guarantees of present or future value. One appraiser may reach a different conclusion than the conclusion that would be reached if a different appraiser were appraising that property. Moreover, the values of the properties may have fluctuated significantly since the appraisals were performed. In addition, any third-party report, including any engineering report, environmental report, site inspection or appraisal represents only the analysis of the individual consultant, engineer or inspector preparing such report at the time of such report, and may not reveal all necessary or desirable repairs, maintenance, remediation and capital improvement items.

The owners of, borrowers on, and tenants occupying, the properties which secure our investments may seek the protection afforded by bankruptcy, insolvency and other debtor relief laws, which may create potential for risk of loss to us.

Although commercial real estate lenders typically seek to reduce the risk of borrower bankruptcy through such items as non-recourse carveouts for bankruptcy and special purpose entity/separateness covenants and/or non-consolidation opinions for borrowing entities, the owners of, borrowers on, and tenants occupying, the properties which secure our investments may still seek the protection afforded by bankruptcy, insolvency and other debtor relief laws. One of the protections offered in such proceedings to each of these parties is a stay of legal proceedings, and a stay of enforcement proceedings against collateral for such loans or underlying such securities (including the properties and cash collateral). A stay of foreclosure proceedings could adversely affect our ability to realize on our loan collateral, and could adversely affect the value of those assets. Other protections in such proceedings to borrowers, owners and tenants include the restructuring or forgiveness of debt, the ability to create super priority liens in favor of certain creditors of the debtor, the potential loss of cash collateral held by the lender if the lender is over-collateralized, and certain well defined claims procedures. Additionally, the numerous risks inherent in the bankruptcy process create a potential risk of loss of our entire investment in any particular investment.

We operate according to specific underwriting criteria in a highly competitive market for lending and investment opportunities, both of which may limit our ability to originate or acquire desirable loans and investments in our target assets and/or our ability to yield a certain return on our investments.

Our Manager uses financial models and underwriting criteria, the effectiveness of which cannot be guaranteed. We operate in a highly competitive market for lending and investment opportunities. Our profitability depends, in large part, on our ability to originate or acquire target assets at attractive prices. In originating or acquiring target assets, we compete with a variety of institutional lenders and investors and many other market participants, including specialty finance companies, REITs, commercial banks and thrift institutions, investment banks, insurance companies, hedge funds and other financial institutions. Many competitors are substantially larger and have considerably greater financial, technical, marketing and other resources than we do. Unlike us, certain of our competitors may not be subject to the maintenance of an exemption from the Investment Company Act. Some competitors may have a lower cost of funds and access to funding sources that may not be available to us. Our Manager's underwriting criteria may restrict us from being able to compete with others for commercial mortgage loan origination and acquisition opportunities and these criteria may be stricter than those employed by our competitors. Furthermore, competition for originations of, and investments in, our target assets may lead to the yield of such assets decreasing, which may further limit our ability to generate desired returns.

The vast majority of the mortgage loans that we originate or purchase, and those underlying the mortgage-backed securities in which we may invest, are non-recourse loans and the assets securing the loans may not be sufficient to protect us from a partial or complete loss if the borrower defaults on the loan.

Except for customary non-recourse carve-outs for certain actions and environmental liability, most commercial mortgage loans, including those underlying the mortgage-backed securities in which we may invest, are effectively non-recourse obligations of the sponsor and borrower, meaning that there is no recourse against the assets of the borrower other than the underlying collateral. In the event of any default under a mortgage loan held directly by us, we will bear a risk of loss to the extent of any deficiency between the value of the collateral and the principal and accrued interest of the mortgage loan, which could have a material adverse effect on our cash flow from operations. Even if a mortgage loan is recourse to the borrower (or if a non-recourse carve-out to the borrower applies), in many cases, the borrower's assets are limited primarily to its interest in the related mortgaged property. Further, although a mortgage loan may provide for limited recourse to a principal or affiliate of the related borrower, there is no assurance of any recovery from such principal or affiliate will be made or that such principal's or affiliate's assets would be sufficient to pay any otherwise recoverable claim. In the event of the bankruptcy of a borrower, the loan to such borrower is deemed to be secured only to the extent of the value of the underlying collateral at the time of bankruptcy (as determined by the bankruptcy court), and the lien securing the loan will be subject to the avoidance powers of the bankruptcy trustee or debtor-in-possession to the extent the lien is unenforceable under state law.

The expense of owning real property may impact our cash flows from operations.

We may in the future purchase or acquire real property that is unrelated to the cannabis industry. Owning and operating real property involves risks that are different (and in many ways more significant) than the risks faced in owning a debt instrument secured by that property. Costs associated with real estate, such as real estate taxes, insurance and maintenance costs, rental rate decreases and other circumstances cause a reduction in income from the property. As a result, cash flows from the operations of our properties may be reduced if a tenant does not pay rent or we are unable to rent out properties on favorable terms. Under those circumstances, we might not be able to enforce our rights as a landlord without delays and may incur substantial legal costs. Additionally, new properties that we may acquire may not produce significant revenue immediately, and the cash flow from existing operations may be insufficient to pay the operating expenses and principal and interest on debt associated with such properties until they are fully leased.

Risks Related to the Cannabis Industry and Related Regulations

Cannabis remains illegal under federal law, and therefore, strict enforcement of federal laws regarding cannabis would likely result in our inability to execute our business plan.

All but nine U.S. states have legalized, to some extent, cannabis for medical purposes. Forty-one states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico and Guam have legalized some form of whole-plant cannabis cultivation, sales and use for certain medical purposes. Twenty-four of those states and the District of Columbia and Northern Mariana have also legalized cannabis for adults for non-medical purposes. Two of those states have also legalized low-tetrahydrocannabinol ("THC")/high-cannabidiol ("CBD") extracts for select medical conditions.

Under U.S. federal law, however, those activities are illegal. Cannabis, other than hemp (defined by the U.S. government as *Cannabis sativa* L. with a THC concentration of not more than 0.3% on a dry weight basis), is a Schedule I controlled substance under the CSA. Even in states or territories that have legalized cannabis to some extent, the cultivation, possession and sale of cannabis all remain violations of federal law that are punishable by imprisonment, substantial fines and forfeiture. Moreover, individuals and entities may violate federal law if they aid and abet another in violating these federal controlled substance laws, or conspire with another to violate them, and violating the federal cannabis laws is a predicate for certain other crimes under the anti-money laundering laws or The Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organizations Act. Monitoring our compliance with these laws is a critical component of our business. The U.S. Supreme Court has ruled that the federal government has the authority to regulate and criminalize the sale, possession and use of cannabis, even for individual medical purposes, regardless of whether it is legal under state law.

For over nine years, however, and despite varying positions by U.S. Attorney Generals, the U.S. government has not enforced those laws against cannabis companies complying with state law, or their vendors. Industry observers anticipate no reversal of that policy of non-enforcement against businesses complying with the state-regulated cannabis programs under the Biden administration given his campaign's position on cannabis and statements made by Attorney General Merrick Garland, discussed below, although prosecutions against state-regulated entities cannot be ruled out entirely at this time. We would likely be unable to execute our business plan if the federal government were to reverse its long-standing hands-off approach to the state-regulated cannabis markets, described below, and were to start strictly enforcing federal law regarding cannabis.

As a result of the conflict between state and federal law regarding cannabis, investments in cannabis businesses in the United States are subject to inconsistent legislation and regulation. On August 29, 2013, the U.S. DOJ attempted to address this inconsistency and to provide guidance to enforcement agencies when former Deputy Attorney General James Cole, under the Obama administration, issued a memorandum on federal cannabis law enforcement. (the "Cole Memo"). Describing the criminal enforcement of federal cannabis prohibitions against those complying with state cannabis regulatory systems as an inefficient use of federal investigative and prosecutorial resources, the Cole Memo gave federal prosecutors discretion not to prosecute against state law compliant cannabis companies in states that were regulating cannabis so long as they were not violating eight federal priorities such as avoiding youth usage. On January 4, 2018, then acting U.S. Attorney General Jeff Sessions issued a memorandum to all U.S. Attorneys (the "Sessions Memo") rescinding the Cole Memo. The Sessions Memo, which remains in effect, states that each U.S. Attorney's Office should follow established principles that govern all federal prosecutions when deciding which cannabis activities to prosecute. As a result, federal prosecutors could and still can use their prosecutorial discretion to decide to prosecute even state-regulated cannabis activities. Since the Sessions Memo was issued in early 2018, however, U.S. Attorneys have not prosecuted state law compliant entities. While not formally rescinding the Sessions Memo, former Attorney General William Barr took a softer position. He testified in his confirmation hearing on January 15, 2019, that he would not upset "settled expectations," "investments," or other "reliance interest[s]" arising as a result of the Cole Memo, and that he would not use federal resources to enforce federal cannabis laws in states that have legalized cannabis "to the extent people are complying with the state laws." He stated: "My approach to this would be not to upset settled expectations and the reliance interests that have arisen as a result of the Cole Memorandum and investments have been made and so there has been reliance on it, so I don't think it's appropriate to upset those interests." Supreme Court Justice Clarence Thomas has echoed Barr's point about nullification. In a June 2021 opinion, he addressed the current state of federal prohibition and suggested that seminal case *Gonzales v. Raich* may be decided differently today: "If the Government is now content to allow States to act 'as laboratories' 'and try novel social and economic experiments,' . . . then it might no longer have authority to intrude on '[t]he States' core police powers. . . . to define criminal law and to protect the health, safety, and welfare of their citizens.'" *Standing Akimbo, LLC v. United States*, 141 S. Ct. 2236, 2238 (2021). Certain statements made by Attorney General Garland suggest that the DOJ may issue further guidance on cannabis enforcement, though the content and timing of such guidance remains unknown.

During his campaign, President Biden promised federal reform on cannabis, including decriminalization generally. In 2022, President Biden signed into law the “Medical Marijuana and Cannabidiol Research Expansion Act,” a bill aimed at easing restrictions on cannabis research — bipartisan legislation which is the first standalone cannabis reform bill to pass both the House and Senate. Additionally, on October 6, 2022, President Biden issued a presidential proclamation pardoning federal convictions for simple marijuana possession offenses, encouraging state governors to do the same on the state level where permissible, and requesting that the Secretary of Health and Human Services and the Attorney General initiate an administrative process to review cannabis’s Schedule I classification under the CSA. On August 29, 2023, HHS issued a letter to the DEA recommending that cannabis be reclassified as a Schedule III drug under the CSA. Should DEA agree with the HHS’s recommendation, it may initiate procedures to reschedule cannabis to Schedule III, potentially in 2024. A change to Schedule III would be beneficial to the state-regulated cannabis industry, but would not change the federal legality of those cannabis businesses. Finally, in December 2023, President Biden signed a new proclamation pardoning more federal marijuana possession offenses. Regardless of the ultimate outcome on CSA scheduling, these executive actions represent significant milestones in the evolution of federal cannabis policy; nonetheless, the implications of the potential re-scheduling are not entirely clear for state-regulated commercial cannabis operators.

At his confirmation hearing, Attorney General Garland stated that he did not see enforcement of federal cannabis law as a high priority use of resources for the DOJ: “This is a question of the prioritization of our resources and prosecutorial discretion. It does not seem to me a useful use of limited resources that we have, to be pursuing prosecutions in states that have legalized and that are regulating the use of marijuana, either medically or otherwise. I don’t think that’s a useful use. I do think we need to be sure there are no end-runs around the state laws that criminal enterprises are doing. So that kind of enforcement should be continued. But I don’t think it’s a good use of our resources, where states have already authorized. That only confuses people, obviously, within the state.” In April 2022, Attorney General Garland reiterated that prosecuting the possession of cannabis is “not an efficient use” of federal resources, especially “given the ongoing opioid and methamphetamine epidemic[s]” facing the nation. In March 2023, Attorney General Garland testified in a Congressional hearing that the DOJ was continuing its work on a new memorandum regarding cannabis enforcement. Attorney General Garland stated that the policy will be “very close to what was done in the Cole memorandum” but was yet to be finalized. While these statements are not promises to avoid federal interference with state cannabis laws, they do signal that the enforcement priorities of DOJ lie elsewhere. Notwithstanding the comments made by Attorney General Garland, there is no guarantee that the current presidential administration will not change its stated policy regarding the low-priority enforcement of U.S. federal cannabis laws that conflict with state laws. The Biden administration could reverse course and decide to enforce U.S. federal cannabis laws vigorously, or a new president in 2024 could take a different view on cannabis enforcement.

The basis for the federal government’s lack of recent enforcement with respect to the cannabis industry extends beyond the strong public support for cannabis legalization and ongoing prosecutorial discretion. The U.S. Congress has repeatedly enacted legislation to protect the medical marijuana industry from prosecution. Since 2014, versions of the U.S. omnibus spending bill have included a provision, known as the Joyce Amendment prohibiting the DOJ, which includes the Drug Enforcement Administration, from using appropriated funds to prevent states from implementing their medical-use cannabis laws. In *USA vs. McIntosh*, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit held that the provision prohibits the DOJ from spending funds to prosecute individuals who engage in conduct permitted by state medical-use cannabis laws and who strictly comply with such laws. The court noted that, if the provision were not continued, prosecutors could enforce against conduct occurring during the statute of limitations even while the provision were previously in force. Other courts that have considered the issue have ruled similarly, although courts disagree about which party bears the burden of proof of showing compliance or noncompliance with state law. The U.S. Congress has continued to include the Joyce Amendment in each subsequent omnibus appropriations bill for fiscal years 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022 and 2023. Additionally, in 2021, President Joe Biden became the first president to propose a budget with the Joyce Amendment included. The Joyce Amendment was most recently extended on January 19, 2024, and is effective through March 8, 2024.

Notably, the Joyce Amendment has always applied only to medical cannabis programs, and does not expressly protect operators in the adult-use cannabis market. There have been attempts by Congressional supporters of cannabis legalization to extend the protections afforded by the Joyce Amendment to recreational cannabis activities, but those efforts have been unsuccessful.

However, federal prosecutors have significant discretion, and no assurance can be given that the federal prosecutor in each judicial district where we make a loan will not choose to strictly enforce the federal laws governing cannabis manufacturing or distribution. Any change in the federal government's enforcement posture with respect to state-licensed cultivation of cannabis, including the enforcement postures of individual federal prosecutors in judicial districts where we make our loans, could result in our inability to execute our business plan and significant losses with respect to our loans to cannabis industry participants in the United States, which would adversely affect our operations, cash flow and financial condition.

Our loans do not prohibit our borrowers from engaging in the cannabis business for adult-use that is permissible under state and local laws. Consequently, certain of our borrowers currently (and may in the future) cultivate adult-use cannabis, if permitted by such state and local laws now or in the future. This could subject our borrowers to greater and/or different federal legal and other risks as compared to businesses where cannabis is cultivated exclusively for medical use, which could materially adversely affect our business. Furthermore, any change in the federal government's enforcement posture with respect to state-licensed cannabis sales, including the enforcement postures of individual federal prosecutors in judicial districts where we operate, would result in our inability to execute our business plan, and we would likely suffer significant losses with respect to our client base, which would adversely affect our operations, cash flow and financial condition.

While the timing of federal reform is unknown, there is bipartisan support for cannabis reform on the federal level. The Senate Banking Committee recently passed the Secure and Fair Enforcement Regulation Banking Act ("SAFER") Banking Act, which would protect financial institutions and other parties accepting money derived from the state-regulated cannabis industry by "creat[ing] protections for financial institutions that provide financial services to [state-regulated cannabis companies] and service providers for such businesses," and also explicitly protects insurers. The SAFER Banking Act could be advanced for a vote in the Senate this year. Additionally, members of the U.S. Congress from the Democratic and Republican parties have introduced bills to end the federal cannabis prohibition, by de-scheduling cannabis completely and regulating it. In the 117th Congress, Senators Cory Booker (D-NJ), Ron Wyden (D-OR), and Chuck Schumer (D-NY) filed the Cannabis Administration And Opportunity Act, a bill that would regulate cannabis and expunge prior cannabis convictions; and in the current Congress, Rep. David Joyce (R-OH) filed the Strengthening the Tenth Amendment Through Entrusting States 2.0 Act, which would repeal the federal prohibition of and further regulate cannabis on the federal level. These sessions has seen additional incremental reform bills, including a bill that would direct the Attorney General of the United States to amend the CSA to move cannabis from Schedule I to Schedule III of the Act (the "Marijuana 1 to 3 Act"), and a bill to allow medical cannabis patients to purchase and possess firearms (the "Second Amendment Protection Act"). While the timing of federal reform remains unknown, it is expected that federal policy on cannabis will continue becoming more, rather than less, permissive, and legislative efforts to legalize cannabis or cannabis banking at the national level are likely to continue in 2024. In the unlikely event that the federal government were to reverse its long-standing hands-off approach to the state-regulated cannabis markets and start more broadly enforcing federal law regarding cannabis, we would likely be unable to execute our business plan, and our business and financial results would be adversely affected. See "*Business—Regulatory Environment*."

Our ability to grow or maintain our business depends in part on state laws pertaining to the cannabis industry. New laws that are adverse to our borrowers may be enacted, and current favorable state or national laws or enforcement guidelines relating to cultivation, production and distribution of cannabis may be modified or eliminated in the future, which would impede our ability to grow our business under our current business plan and could materially adversely affect our business.

Continued development of the cannabis industry depends upon continued legislative authorization of cannabis at the state level. The status quo of, or progress in, the regulated cannabis industry, while encouraging, is not assured and any number of factors could slow or halt further progress in this area. While there may be ample public support for legislative action permitting the manufacture and use of cannabis, numerous factors impact and can delay the legislative and regulatory processes. For example, many states that legalized medical-use and/or adult-use cannabis have seen significant delays in the drafting and implementation of industry regulations and issuance of licenses. In addition, burdensome regulations at the state level could slow or stop further development of the medical-use and/or adult-use cannabis industry, such as limiting the medical conditions for which medical-use cannabis can be recommended, restricting the form in which medical-use or adult-use cannabis can be consumed, or imposing significant taxes on the growth, processing and/or retail sales of cannabis, each of which could have the impact of dampening growth of the cannabis industry and making it difficult for cannabis businesses, including our borrowers, to operate profitably in those states. Any one of these factors could slow or halt additional legislative authorization of cannabis, which could harm our business prospects.

Our investment opportunities are limited by the current illegality of cannabis under U.S. federal law; changes in the laws, regulations and guidelines that impact the cannabis industry may cause adverse effects on our ability to make loans.

We make loans to borrowers that we determine based on our due diligence are licensed in, and complying with, state-regulated cannabis programs, regardless of their status under U.S. federal law. Any such loans will be designed to be compliant with all applicable laws and regulations to which we are subject, including U.S. federal law, although the law in this area is not fully settled and there can be no assurances that federal authorities will consider such loans to be compliant with applicable law and regulations. In that regard, we have previously received an opinion of counsel that our proposed investment activities do not violate the CSA, the U.S. Money Laundering Control Act (18 U.S.C. § 1956), or the Drug Paraphernalia law contained in the CSA, (21 U.S.C. § 863), subject to certain assumptions, qualifications, and exceptions stated in the opinion. However, there can be no assurances that a court or federal authorities would agree with the conclusions reached in the opinion. Additionally, if federal legislation is enacted that provides protections from liability under U.S. federal law for other types of debt investments in borrowers or other target companies that are compliant with state, but not U.S. federal, laws and is determined to apply to us (or we otherwise determine that the debt investment is not prohibited), and such other types of debt investments are in compliance with Nasdaq's listing policies and ongoing requirements, we may make other types of debt investments in such companies that do not comply with U.S. federal laws, subject to our investment policies and guidelines. There can be no assurance, however, that such type of legislation will be enacted or that we will otherwise be able to make loans that do not comply with U.S. federal law.

Risks related to the cannabis industry may directly or indirectly affect us or our borrowers engaged in the cannabis industry.

Our borrowers face several challenges unique to the state-regulated cannabis industry, which could negatively affect our revenues if it impedes their profitability or operations and their ability to continue to pay us. Some of these challenges include, but are not limited to, the following:

- The manufacture, distribution, sale, or possession of cannabis that is not in compliance with the CSA is illegal under U.S. federal law. Strict enforcement of U.S. federal laws regarding cannabis would likely result in our borrowers' inability to execute a business plan in the cannabis industry;
- Laws and regulations affecting the regulated cannabis industry are varied, broad in scope and subject to evolving interpretations, and may restrict the use of the properties our borrowers acquire or require certain additional regulatory approvals, which could materially adversely affect our loans to such borrowers;
- Our borrowers may have difficulty borrowing from or otherwise accessing the service of banks, which may inhibit our ability to open bank accounts or otherwise utilize traditional banking services;
- Our borrowers may have a difficult time obtaining financing in connection with our investment strategy;
- There may be no material aspect of our borrowers' businesses that is protected by patents, copyrights, trademarks or trade names, and they may face strong competition from larger companies, including those that may offer similar products and services to our borrowers;
- U.S. federal courts may refuse to recognize the enforceability of contracts pertaining to any business operations that are deemed illegal under U.S. federal law, including cannabis companies operating legally under state law;
- Our borrowers may have a difficult time obtaining the various insurance policies that are needed to operate such businesses, which may expose us and our borrowers to additional risks and financial liabilities;
- Our borrowers are subject to unfavorable U.S. tax treatment under Section 280E of the Code;
- Our borrowers may be foreclosed from using bankruptcy courts;
- Assets collateralizing loans to cannabis businesses may be forfeited to the U.S. federal government in connection with government enforcement actions under U.S. federal law;
- U.S. Food and Drug Administration (the "FDA") regulation of cannabis and the possible registration of facilities where cannabis is grown could negatively affect the cannabis industry, which could directly affect our financial condition and the financial condition of our borrowers;
- The cannabis industry may face significant opposition from other industries that perceive cannabis products and services as competitive with their own, including but not limited to the hemp industry, pharmaceutical industry, adult beverage industry and tobacco industry, some of which have powerful lobbying and financial resources; and

- Consumer complaints and negative publicity regarding cannabis-related products and services could lead to political pressure on states to implement new laws and regulations that are adverse to the cannabis industry, to not modify existing, restrictive laws and regulations, or to reverse current favorable laws and regulations relating to cannabis.

We and our borrowers may have difficulty accessing the service of banks and other financial institutions, which may make it difficult to sell products and services, and we may be limited in our ability to provide debt to participants in the cannabis industry, which could materially and adversely affect our business, financial condition, liquidity and results of operations.

Although we do not grow or sell cannabis products, our connection to the cannabis industry may hamper our efforts to do business or establish collaborative relationships with others that may fear disruption or increased regulatory scrutiny of their own activities. Certain financial transactions involving proceeds from the commercial sale of cannabis can form a basis for prosecution under the federal money laundering statutes, unlicensed money transmitter statute and the Bank Secrecy Act. Most federal and federally-insured state banks currently do not serve businesses that grow and sell cannabis products on the stated ground that growing and selling cannabis is illegal under federal law, even though the Treasury Department's Financial Crimes Enforcement Network ("FinCEN") issued guidelines to banks in February 2014 that clarified how financial institutions can provide services to cannabis-related businesses, consistent with financial institutions' obligations under the Bank Secrecy Act (the "FinCEN Memo"). While the federal government has not initiated financial crimes prosecutions against state-law compliant cannabis companies or their vendors, the government theoretically could, at least against companies in the adult-use markets. The continued uncertainty surrounding financial transactions related to cannabis activities may result in financial institutions discontinuing services to the cannabis industry or limit our ability to provide loans to the cannabis industry.

While the FinCEN Memo is presumptively still in effect, FinCEN could elect to rescind the FinCEN Memo at any time. Banks remain hesitant to offer banking services to cannabis-related businesses. Consequently, those businesses involved in the cannabis industry continue to encounter difficulty in establishing banking relationships, which would negatively affect the business, financial condition and results of operations of borrowers. Our inability or the inability of our borrowers to maintain bank accounts would make it difficult for us to operate our business, would increase our operating costs and pose additional operational, logistical and security challenges, and could result in our inability to implement our business plan.

The terms of our loans require that our borrowers make payments on such loans via check or wire transfer. Only a small percentage of financial institutions in the United States currently provide banking services to licensed companies operating in the cannabis industry. The inability of our current and potential borrowers to open accounts and continue using the services of banks will limit their ability to enter into debt arrangements with us or may result in their default under our debt agreements, either of which could materially harm our business, operations, cash flow and financial condition.

The medical and adult-use cannabis industry is highly competitive, which could adversely affect our business, financial condition and results of operations.

The market for businesses in the cannabis industry is highly competitive and evolving. In addition to other state-regulated competitors, our borrowers may face competition from (i) unlicensed and unregulated market participants; (ii) individuals who produce cannabis for their own use under personal cultivation laws; and (iii) entities creating hemp-derived or other synthetic products which emulate the effects of cannabis. These competitors could change the demand, volume and profitability of the cannabis industry. This could adversely affect the ability of a borrower to secure long-term profitability and success through the sustainable and profitable operation of the anticipated businesses and investment targets, and could have a material adverse effect on a borrower's business, financial condition or results of operations, which in turn, could adversely affect our business, financial condition and results of operations.

There can be no assurance that the cannabis industry will continue to exist or grow as currently anticipated.

There can be no assurance that the cannabis industry and market will continue to exist or grow as currently estimated or anticipated, or function and evolve in a manner consistent with our expectations and assumptions. Any event or circumstance that affects the medical or adult use cannabis industry and market could have a material adverse effect on our business, financial condition and results of operations, as well as the business, financial condition and results of operations of our borrowers.

Marketing constraints under regulatory frameworks may limit a borrower's ability to compete for market share in a manner similar to that of companies in other industries.

The development of a borrower's business and operating results may be hindered by applicable restrictions on sales and marketing activities imposed by regulations applicable to the cannabis industry. For example, the regulatory environment in Illinois would limit a borrower's ability to compete for market share in a manner similar to that of companies in other industries. Additionally, Illinois regulations impose restrictions on individual purchases in the adult-use cannabis market. If a borrower is unable to effectively market its products and compete for market share, or if the costs of compliance with government legislation and regulation cannot be absorbed through increased selling prices for its products, its sales and operating results could be adversely affected, which could impact our business, results of operations and financial condition.

There is uncertainty in pricing and demand for cannabis and cannabis-based products.

Changes in the legal status of cannabis may result in surges in demand. As a result of such a surge, cannabis companies operating under such changed legal regime may not be able to produce enough cannabis to meet demand of the adult-use and medical markets, as applicable. This may result in lower than expected sales and revenues and increased competition for sales and sources of supply.

Likewise, cannabis producers may produce more cannabis than is needed to satisfy the collective demand of the adult-use and medical markets, as applicable, and they currently are unable to export that oversupply into other markets where cannabis use is fully legal under all applicable jurisdictional laws. As a result, the available supply of cannabis could exceed demand, resulting in a significant decline in the market price for cannabis. If such supply or price fluctuations were to occur, companies operating in the cannabis industry may see revenue and profitability fluctuate materially and their business, financial condition, results of operations and prospects may be adversely affected, as could our business, financial condition and results of operations.

In the future, the pricing of cannabis products may differ substantially from current levels given changes in the competitive and regulatory landscape. A borrower's business model may be susceptible to erosion of profitability should cannabis and cannabis-related products experience secular pricing changes. Potential sources of pricing changes include overproduction, regulatory action, increased competition or the emergence of new competitors. Additionally, even if pricing of the broader cannabis and cannabis-related product market is sustained, there is no guarantee that a borrower will be successful in creating and maintaining consumer demand and estimated pricing levels. To do this, the borrower may be dependent upon, among other things, continually producing desirable and effective cannabis and cannabis-related products and the continued growth in the aggregate number of cannabis consumers. Campaigns designed to enhance a borrower's brand and attract consumers, subject to restrictions imposed by law, can be expensive and may not result in increased sales. If the borrower is unable to attract new consumers, it may not be able to increase its sales.

As a result of changing consumer preferences, many consumer products attain financial success for a limited period of time. Even if a borrower's products find success at retail, there can be no assurance that such products will continue to be profitable. A borrower's success will be significantly dependent upon its ability to develop new and improved product lines and adapt to consumer preferences. Even if a borrower is successful in introducing new products or developing its current products, a failure to gain consumer acceptance or to update products could cause a decline in the products' popularity and impair the brands. In addition, a borrower may be required to invest significant capital in the creation of new product lines, strains, brands, marketing campaigns, packaging and other product features, none of which are guaranteed to be successful. Failure to introduce new features and product lines and to achieve and sustain market acceptance could result in the borrower being unable to satisfy consumer preferences and generate revenue which could have a material adverse effect on the business, financial condition and results of operations of such borrower, and, in turn, on our business, financial condition and results of operations.

Synthetic or hemp-derived products may compete with cannabis use and products.

The hemp and pharmaceutical industry may attempt to compete with or dominate the cannabis industry, and in particular, state-regulated cannabis, through the development and distribution of hemp-derived or synthetic products which emulate the effects and treatment of cannabis. The widespread popularity of such products could change the demand, volume and profitability of the cannabis industry. This could adversely affect the ability of our clients to secure long-term profitability and success.

Recently, there has been a proliferation of the extraction of delta-8-THC and other intoxicating cannabinoids from industrial hemp and infusion of these isomers into various saleable and finished products. Utilizing the legality of industrial hemp under U.S. federal law, many such products are available for sale through unlicensed channels and are shipped in interstate commerce. Additionally, some hemp companies sell hemp-derived THC products with state authorization. Given the similar intoxicating effects to cannabis-derived THC, which is an illegal substance under the CSA, and its substantially lower price point, patients and consumers may choose to consume hemp-derived products in lieu of cannabis-derived products. A report published by the research firm Whitney Economics claims that hemp-derived cannabinoid sales were greater than the total sales of state-regulated medical and adult use cannabis in 2022. According to the report, the hemp industry saw approximately \$28.4 billion in sales, which, if accurate, exceeded state-regulated cannabis sales in the same period. At the same time, similar hemp-derived products are much less stringently regulated, increasing competition on state-regulated cannabis businesses. In light of the substantial investment our clients have made and continue to make in the state regulated cannabis industry, the widespread use of hemp-derived THC or synthetic products could adversely impact our clients, which could, in turn, have a material adverse effect on our business, financial condition and results of operations.

Our reputation and ability to do business, as well as the reputation of our borrowers and their ability to do business, may be negatively impacted by the improper conduct of third parties, including but not limited to business partners, employees or agents.

We cannot provide assurance that the internal controls and compliance systems of our borrowers will always protect us from acts committed by such companies' employees, agents or business partners in violation of applicable laws and regulations in the jurisdictions in which they conduct operations, including those applicable to businesses in the cannabis industry. Any improper acts or allegations could damage our reputation, the reputation of our borrowers and subject us and our borrowers to civil or criminal investigations and related shareholder lawsuits, could lead to substantial civil and criminal monetary and non-monetary penalties, and could cause us or our borrowers to incur significant legal and investigatory fees.

Laws and regulations affecting the regulated cannabis industry are continually changing, which could materially adversely affect our proposed operations, and we cannot predict the impact that future regulations may have on us.

Local, state and federal cannabis laws and regulations have been evolving rapidly and are subject to varied interpretations, which could require us to incur substantial costs associated with compliance or alter our business plan and could negatively impact our borrowers or prospective borrowers, which in turn could negatively impact our business. It is also possible that regulations may be enacted in the future that will be directly applicable to our business, including with respect to climate change or other environmental, social, or governance topics, which may increase our regulatory burden, as well as result in enhanced disclosure obligations. We can know neither the nature of any future laws, regulations, interpretations or applications nor the effect additional governmental regulations or administrative policies and procedures, when and if promulgated, could have on our business. For example, if cannabis is no longer illegal under federal law, we may experience a significant increase in competition. Accordingly, any change in these laws or regulations, changes in their interpretation, or newly enacted laws or regulations and any failure by us to comply with these laws or regulations, could require changes to certain of our business practices, negatively impact our operations, cash flow or financial condition, impose additional costs on us or otherwise adversely affect our business. Violations of applicable laws, or allegations of such violations, could disrupt our borrowers' businesses and result in a material adverse effect on their operations. We cannot predict the nature of any future laws, regulations, interpretations or applications, and it is possible that regulations may be enacted in the future that will be materially adverse to the business of our borrowers, as well as our business.

Applicable state laws may prevent us from maximizing our potential income.

Depending on the state, and the laws of that particular state, we may not be able to fully realize our potential to generate profit. For example, some states have residency requirements for those directly involved in the cannabis industry, which may impede our ability to contract with cannabis businesses in those states. Furthermore, cities and counties are being given broad discretion to ban certain cannabis activities, even if these activities are legal under state law.

Borrowers operating in a highly regulated business require significant resources.

Our borrowers are involved in the production, distribution or sale of cannabis products and operate in a highly regulated business. In such a case, we would expect a significant amount of such borrower's management's time and external resources to be used to comply with the laws, regulations and guidelines that impact their business, and changes thereto, and such compliance may place a significant burden on such management and other resources of a borrower.

Additionally, our borrowers may be subject to a variety of differing laws, regulations and guidelines in each of the jurisdictions in which they operate. Complying with multiple regulatory regimes will require additional resources and may limit a borrower's ability to expand into certain jurisdictions. For example, even if cannabis were to become legal under U.S. federal law, companies operating in the cannabis industry would have to comply with all applicable state and local laws, which may vary greatly between jurisdictions, increasing costs for companies that operate in multiple jurisdictions. Any such diversion of resources could have a material adverse effect on the business, results of operation and financial condition of a borrower, which could in turn have a material adverse effect on our business, results of operations and financial condition.

Any failure or significant delay in our borrowers obtaining necessary regulatory approvals could adversely affect the ability of borrowers to conduct their businesses.

The ability of our borrowers to meet their business objectives will be contingent, in part, upon compliance with the regulatory requirements enacted by applicable government authorities and obtaining all regulatory approvals, where necessary, for modifications or expansions of their business or the sale of new products. We cannot predict the time required to secure all appropriate regulatory approvals, additional restrictions that may be placed on our borrower's business or the extent of testing and documentation that may be required by government authorities. Any delays in obtaining, or failure to obtain, regulatory approvals would significantly delay the development of markets and products and could have a material adverse effect on the business, results of operation and financial condition of any such borrower, or on our business, results of operations and financial condition.

Borrowers may become involved in regulatory or agency proceedings, investigations and audits.

As previously stated, our borrowers are involved in the production, distribution or sale of cannabis products and operate in a highly regulated business. Failure to comply with relevant federal and state laws and regulations could subject our borrowers to regulatory or agency proceedings or investigations and could also lead to damage awards, fines and penalties. Our borrowers may become involved in a number of government or agency proceedings, investigations and audits. The outcome of any regulatory or agency proceedings, investigations, audits and other contingencies could harm our reputation, the reputations of our borrowers or the reputations of the brands that they may sell, require the borrowers to take, or refrain from taking, actions that could impact their operations, or require them to pay substantial amounts of money, harming their and our financial condition. There can be no assurance that any pending or future regulatory or agency proceedings, investigations and audits will not result in substantial costs or a diversion of borrower management's attention and resources or have a material adverse impact on their and our business, financial condition and results of operations.

Loans to cannabis businesses may be forfeited to the federal government.

Any assets used by participants in the cannabis industry in conjunction with the violation of federal law, or that represent proceeds of such business or is traceable to proceeds of such business, are potentially subject to federal forfeiture, even in states that have legalized cannabis. Even if the owner of the property is never charged with a crime, the property in question could still be seized and subject to an administrative proceeding by which, with minimal due process, it could be subject to forfeiture. In July 2017, the DOJ issued a new policy directive regarding asset forfeiture, referred to as the "equitable sharing program." This policy directive represents a reversal of DOJ's policy under the Obama administration, and allows for forfeitures to proceed that are not in accord with the limitations imposed by state-specific forfeiture laws. This new policy directive could lead to increased use of asset forfeitures by local, state and federal enforcement agencies. If the federal government decides to initiate forfeiture proceedings against cannabis businesses, such as the cannabis facilities that are owned or utilized by our borrowers, our loans to our borrowers would likely be materially and adversely affected.

We may have difficulty accessing bankruptcy courts.

We currently have no need or plans to seek bankruptcy protection. Because cannabis is illegal under federal law, federal bankruptcy protection is currently not available to parties who engage in the cannabis industry or cannabis-related businesses. Recent bankruptcy rulings have denied bankruptcies for dispensaries upon the justification that businesses cannot violate federal law and then claim the benefits of federal bankruptcy for the same activity and upon the justification that courts cannot ask a bankruptcy trustee to take possession of, and distribute cannabis assets as such action would violate the CSA. Therefore, we may not be able to seek the protection of the bankruptcy courts, and this could materially affect our business or our ability to obtain credit.

There may be difficulty enforcing certain of our commercial agreements and contracts.

Courts will not enforce a contract deemed to involve a violation of law or public policy. Because cannabis remains illegal under U.S. federal law, parties to contracts involving the state-regulated cannabis industry have argued that the agreement was void as federally illegal or against public policy. Some courts have accepted this argument in certain cases, usually against the company involved in commercial cannabis activity. While courts have enforced contracts related to activities by state-regulated cannabis companies, and the trend is generally to enforce contracts with state-regulated cannabis companies and their vendors, there remains doubt and uncertainty that we will be able to enforce our commercial agreements in court for this reason. We cannot be assured that we will have a remedy for breach of contract, which would have a material adverse effect on our business.

The loans that are in our Existing Portfolio, and that we expect to make in the future may, include Canadian entities within their corporate structure that have the ability to seek insolvency protections in Canada, which could materially and adversely affect our business.

The loans that are in our Existing Portfolio, and that we expect to make in the future may, include U.S.-based companies operating in the cannabis industry with at least one Canadian entity within their corporate structure for the purpose of listing on the CSE. In May 2020, a U.S.-based cannabis company that is listed on the CSE filed for, and was granted, insolvency protection under the Companies' Creditors Arrangement Act pursuant to Canadian law. In addition, in October 2022, the parent company of Public Company A, which is also a guarantor of the Public Company A loans, along with its Canadian subsidiaries filed for bankruptcy protection under the Companies' Creditors Arrangement Act in Canada. The Public Company A Affiliates are in the process of restructuring their operations. If an applicable borrower obtains bankruptcy protections in Canada, it could restrict our ability, or create additional costs or delays involved in our efforts, to foreclose on the collateral, which will reduce the net proceeds realized and, thus, increase the potential for loss.

The loans that are in our Existing Portfolio are, and that we expect to make in the future may be, secured by properties, that are, and will be, subject to extensive regulations, such that if such collateral was foreclosed upon those regulations may result in significant costs and materially and adversely affect our business, financial condition, liquidity and results of operations.

The loans that are in our Existing Portfolio are, and that we expect to make in the future may be, secured by properties that are, and will be, subject to various local laws and regulatory requirements, and we would be subject to such requirements if such collateral was foreclosed upon. Local property regulations may restrict the use of collateral or our ability to foreclose on the collateral. Among other things, these restrictions may relate to cultivation of cannabis, the use of water and the discharge of waste water, fire and safety, seismic conditions, asbestos-cleanup or hazardous material abatement requirements. Due to current statutory prohibitions, we will not own any real estate used in cannabis-related operations. While our loan agreements and related mortgages provide for foreclosure remedies, receivership remedies and/or other remedies that would allow us to cause the sale or other realization of real property collateral, the regulatory requirements and statutory prohibitions related to real property used in cannabis-related operations may cause significant delays or difficulties in realizing the expected value of such real property collateral. We make no assurance that existing regulatory policies will not materially and adversely affect the value of such collateral, or that additional regulations will not be adopted that would increase such potential material adverse effect. The negative affect on such collateral could have a material adverse effect on our business, financial condition, liquidity and results of operations.

Certain assets of our borrowers may not be used as collateral or transferred to us due to applicable state laws and regulations governing the cannabis industry, and such restrictions could negatively impact our profitability.

Each state that has legalized cannabis in some form has adopted its own set of laws and regulations that differ from one another. In particular, laws and regulations differ among states regarding the collateralization or transferability of cannabis-related assets, such as cannabis licenses, cannabis inventory, and ownership interests in licensed cannabis companies. Some state laws and regulations where our borrowers operate may prohibit the collateralization or transferability of certain cannabis-related assets. Other states may allow the collateralization or transferability of cannabis-related assets, but with restrictions, such as meeting certain eligibility requirements, utilization of state receiverships, and/or upon approval by the applicable regulatory authority. Prohibitions or restrictions on our or others' ability to acquire certain cannabis-related assets securing the loans of our borrowers could have a material adverse effect on our business, financial condition, liquidity and results of operations.

To the extent real estate collateral is still being used in cannabis-related activities, we will not foreclose and take title to such real estate to the extent doing so would violate Nasdaq listing standards. With respect to equipment, receivables and cash accounts, there are no prohibitions under state law regarding our ability to foreclose on such collateral. Foreclosing on pledged equity would trigger a change of control and such an action might also require approval of state regulators. Our loans are often secured by liens on equity, including the equity in the entity that holds the state-issued license to cultivate, process, distribute, and/or retail cannabis, as the case may be, but we will not take title to such equity as doing so would violate Nasdaq listing standards. We also cannot foreclose on liens on state licenses as they are generally not transferable, and we do not have liens on cannabis inventory.

Our ability to force a sale of our real estate collateral differs based on the state in which such real estate collateral is located and the security instruments used to secure such real estate collateral in each state. In Illinois, Michigan, Nevada, New Jersey, Ohio, Florida, Pennsylvania and Arkansas, for example, the ability to force such sales is governed by judicial foreclosure in such states pursuant to each state's foreclosure laws. Under judicial foreclosure, we can enforce a judgment in foreclosure by (i) in the case of Arkansas, a public sale or (ii) for all other states, a writ of execution. In a judgment in foreclosure by public sale, the judgment directs the circuit clerk of the county in which the real property is located to sell the real property at a properly noticed public auction. A judgment in foreclosure by writ of execution directs a sheriff, clerk, special master, referee or other authorized person, as the case may be, to levy on and sell the real property, commonly at a properly noticed public auction. In Arizona, Maryland, and Massachusetts, a trustee or appointed auctioneer sells the property at a public sale through a non-judicial foreclosure pursuant to each state's non-judicial foreclosure laws. In Missouri, we may force a sale of our real estate collateral either through judicial foreclosure or through a sale administered by a trustee at our discretion. In New Mexico, we can force a sale of real estate collateral through a judicial foreclosure or a non-judicial foreclosure, depending upon the security instruments used to secure the real estate collateral. Under judicial foreclosure in New Mexico, we can enforce a judgment in foreclosure by a public sale. Under non-judicial foreclosure in New Mexico, a trustee or appointed auctioneer sells the property at a public sale. In Iowa, we can also force a sale of real estate collateral through a judicial foreclosure or a non-judicial foreclosure. Under judicial foreclosure in Iowa, we can enforce a judgment in foreclosure by a writ of execution. A judgment in foreclosure by writ of execution directs the sheriff of the county in which the real property is located to sell the real property at a properly noticed public auction. Under non-judicial foreclosure in Iowa, we may enforce our mortgage by either (i) recording an agreement that is entered into between borrower and lender to surrender the property with a 30 day notice served on junior lienholders to either redeem or surrender their lien(s), or (ii) by serving a 30 day notice on mortgagor and junior lienholders, subject to rejection by mortgagor or cure by either mortgagor or junior lienholder.

Equipment, receivables, and cash in deposit accounts may be collected under state Uniform Commercial Code ("UCC"). In all states, we are permitted for non-real estate collateral (e.g., equipment) to pursue a judicial action and execute on a judgment via sheriffs' sale. While we currently cannot foreclose under UCC and take title or sell equity in a licensed cannabis business, a potential purchaser of a delinquent or defaulted loan could. However, the transfer of ownership of equity in a licensed cannabis business requires state regulator approval, which can take significant time. In addition, because the sale of collateral may be forced upon the borrower at such point when time may be of the essence and the assets may be made available to a limited number of potential purchasers, particularly in those limited-license states in which we focus, the sales prices may be less than the prices obtained with more time in a larger market. As a result, the sale of such collateral may not result in sufficient proceeds to repay our loan and could have a material and adverse effect on our business, financial condition, liquidity and results of operations.

Liability relating to environmental matters may impact the value of properties that we may acquire upon foreclosure of the properties securing our loans.

To the extent we foreclose on properties securing our loans, we may be subject to environmental liabilities arising from such foreclosed properties. In particular, cannabis cultivation and manufacturing facilities may present environmental concerns of which we are not currently aware. Under various federal, state and local laws, an owner or operator of real property may become liable for the costs of removal of certain hazardous substances released on its property. These laws often impose liability without regard to whether the owner or operator knew of, or was responsible for, the release of such hazardous substances. Accordingly, if environmental contamination exists on properties we acquire or develop after acquisition, we could become subject to liability for the contamination.

The presence of hazardous substances may adversely affect an owner's ability to sell real estate or borrow using real estate as collateral. To the extent that an owner of a property securing one of our loans becomes liable for removal costs, the ability of the owner to make payments to us may be reduced, which in turn may adversely affect the value of the relevant loan held by us and our ability to make distributions to our shareholders.

If we foreclose on any properties securing our loans, the presence of hazardous substances on a property may adversely affect our ability to sell the property and we may incur substantial remediation costs, thus harming our financial condition. The discovery of material environmental liabilities attached to any properties securing our loans could have a material adverse effect on our results of operations and financial condition and our ability to make distributions to our shareholders.

The market value of properties securing our loans acquired by us upon foreclosure may decrease if they cannot be used for cannabis related operations.

Properties used for cannabis operations, particularly cultivation and manufacturing facilities, are generally more valuable than if used for other purposes. If we foreclose on any properties securing our loans, our inability to sell the property to a licensed cannabis company for a similar use may significantly decrease the market value of the foreclosed property thereby having a material adverse effect on our business, financial condition, liquidity and results of operations.

FDA regulation of cannabis could negatively affect the cannabis industry, which would directly affect our financial condition.

Should the federal government legalize cannabis for adult-use and/or medical-use, it is possible that the FDA would seek to regulate it under the Food, Drug and Cosmetics Act of 1938. Indeed, after the U.S. government removed hemp and its extracts from the CSA as part of the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018, then FDA Commissioner Scott Gottlieb issued a statement reminding the public of the FDA's continued authority "to regulate products containing cannabis or cannabis-derived compounds under the Federal Food, Drug and Cosmetic Act (the "FD&C Act") and section 351 of the Public Health Service Act." He also reminded the public that "it's unlawful under the FD&C Act to introduce food containing added CBD or THC into interstate commerce, or to market CBD or THC products, as, or in, dietary supplements, regardless of whether the substances are hemp-derived," and regardless of whether health claims are made, because CBD and THC entered the FDA testing pipeline as the subject of public substantial clinical investigations for GW Pharmaceuticals' Sativex (THC and CBD) and Epidiolex (CBD). The memo added that, prior to introduction into interstate commerce, any cannabis product, whether derived from hemp or otherwise, marketed with a disease claim (e.g., therapeutic benefit, disease prevention, etc.) must first be approved by the FDA for its intended use through one of the drug approval pathways. Notably, the FDA can look beyond the product's express claims to find that a product is a "drug." The definition of "drug" under the FDCA includes, in relevant part, "articles intended for use in the diagnosis, cure, mitigation, treatment, or prevention of disease in man or other animals" as well as "articles intended for use as a component of [a drug as defined in the other sections of the definition]." 21 U.S.C. • 321(g)(1). In determining "intended use," the FDA has traditionally looked beyond a product's label to statements made on websites, on social media, or orally by the company's representatives.

The FDA has sent numerous warning letters to sellers of CBD products making health claims. The FDA could turn its attention to the cannabis industry. In addition to requiring FDA approval of cannabis products marketed as drugs, the FDA could issue rules and regulations including certified good manufacturing practices related to the growth, cultivation, harvesting and processing of cannabis. It is also possible that the FDA would require that facilities where cannabis is grown register with the FDA and comply with certain federally prescribed regulations. Cannabis facilities are currently regulated by state and local governments. In the event that some or all of these federal enforcement and regulations are imposed, we do not know what the impact would be on the cannabis industry, including what costs, requirements and possible prohibitions may be enforced. If we or our borrowers are unable to comply with the regulations or registration as prescribed by the FDA, we and/or our borrowers may be unable to continue to operate our and their business in its current form or at all.

Research in the United States, Canada and internationally regarding the medical benefits, viability, safety, efficacy and dosing of cannabis or isolated cannabinoids may cause adverse effects on our or borrowers' operations.

Historically stringent regulations related to cannabis have made conducting medical and academic studies challenging. Many statements concerning the potential medical benefits of cannabinoids are based on published articles and reports, and as a result, such statements are subject to the experimental parameters, qualifications and limitations in the studies that have been completed. Future research and clinical trials may draw different or negative conclusions regarding the medical benefits, viability, safety, efficacy, dosing or other facts and perceptions related to medical cannabis, which could adversely affect social acceptance of cannabis and the demand for their products.

There can be no assurance that future scientific research, findings, regulatory proceedings, litigation, media attention, or other research findings or publicity will be favorable to the cannabis market or any particular cannabis product or will be consistent with earlier publicity. Adverse future scientific research reports, findings and regulatory proceedings that are, or litigation, media attention or other publicity that is, perceived as less favorable than, or that questions, earlier research reports, findings or publicity (whether or not accurate or with merit) could result in a significant reduction in the demand for the cannabis products of a borrower. Further, adverse publicity reports or other media attention regarding the safety, efficacy and quality of cannabis, or the products of a borrower specifically, or associating the consumption of cannabis with illness or other negative effects or events, could adversely affect such borrower. This adverse publicity could arise even if the adverse effects associated with cannabis products resulted from consumers' failure to use such products legally, appropriately or as directed.

The cannabis industry is subject to the risks inherent in an agricultural business, including the risk of crop failure.

The growing of cannabis is an agricultural process. As such, a borrower with operations in the cannabis industry is subject to the risks inherent in the agricultural business, including risks of crop failure presented by weather, insects, plant diseases and similar agricultural risks. Although some cannabis production is conducted indoors under climate controlled conditions, cannabis continues to be grown outdoors and there can be no assurance that artificial or natural elements, such as insects and plant diseases, will not entirely interrupt production activities or have an adverse effect on the production of cannabis and, accordingly, the operations of a borrower, which could have an adverse effect on our business, financial condition and results of operations.

Many cannabis businesses are dependent on key personnel with sufficient experience in the cannabis industry.

The success of businesses in the cannabis industry is largely dependent on the performance of their respective management teams and key employees and their continuing ability to attract, develop, motivate and retain highly qualified and skilled employees. Qualified individuals are in high demand, and significant costs may be incurred to attract and retain them. The loss of the services of any key personnel, or an inability to attract other suitably qualified persons when needed, could prevent a borrower from executing on its business plan and strategy, and the borrower may be unable to find adequate replacements on a timely basis, or at all. Such events and circumstances could have a material adverse effect on the operations of a borrower, which could have an adverse effect on our business, financial condition and results of operations.

Our borrowers may be vulnerable to rising energy costs.

Cannabis growing operations consume considerable energy, which makes a borrower vulnerable to rising energy costs and/or the availability of stable energy sources. Accordingly, rising or volatile energy costs or the inability to access stable energy sources may have a material adverse effect on the borrower's business, financial condition and results of operations, which could also adversely affect our business, financial condition and results of operations.

Third-parties with whom we do business may perceive themselves as being exposed to reputational risk by virtue of their relationship with us and may ultimately elect not to do business with us.

By lending to borrowers in the cannabis industry, the parties with which we do business may perceive that they are exposed to reputational risk as a result of our loans to cannabis businesses. Failure to establish or maintain business relationships could have a material adverse effect on us.

The cannabis industry faces significant opposition, and any negative trends may cause adverse effects on the operations of our borrowers, which could cause adverse effects on our business.

By lending to borrowers in the cannabis industry, we are substantially dependent on the continued market acceptance, and the proliferation of consumers, of cannabis. We believe that with further legalization, cannabis will become more accepted, resulting in growth in consumer demand. However, we cannot predict the future growth rate or future market potential, and any negative outlook on the cannabis industry may adversely affect our business operations and the operations of our borrowers.

Large, well-funded industries that perceive cannabis products and services as competitive with their own, including but not limited to the pharmaceutical industry, adult beverage industry and tobacco industry, all of which have powerful lobbying and financial resources, may have strong economic reasons to oppose the development of the cannabis industry. For example, should cannabis displace other drugs or products, the medical cannabis industry could face a material threat from the pharmaceutical industry, which is well-funded and possesses a strong and experienced lobby. Any inroads the pharmaceutical, or any other potentially displaced, industry or sector could make in halting or impeding the cannabis industry could have a detrimental impact on our business and the business of our borrowers.

Risks Related to Sources of Financing Our Business

Our growth depends on external sources of capital, which may not be available on favorable terms or at all.

We intend to grow by expanding our portfolio of loans, which we intend to finance primarily through newly issued equity or debt. We may not be in a position to take advantage of attractive lending opportunities for growth if we are unable, due to global or regional economic uncertainty, changes in the state or federal regulatory environment relating to our business, our own operating or financial performance or otherwise, to access capital markets on a timely basis and on favorable terms or at all. In addition, U.S. federal income tax law generally requires that a REIT distribute annually at least 90% of its REIT taxable income, without regard to the deduction for dividends paid and excluding net capital gain and certain non-cash income, and that it pay U.S. federal income tax at regular corporate rates to the extent that it annually distributes less than 100% of such taxable income. Because we intend to grow our business, this limitation may require us to raise additional equity or incur debt at a time when it may be disadvantageous to do so.

Our access to capital will depend upon a number of factors over which we have little or no control, including, but not limited to:

- general economic or market conditions;
- the market's view of the quality of our assets;
- the market's perception of our growth potential;
- the current regulatory environment with respect to our business; and
- our current and potential future earnings and cash distributions.

If general economic instability or downturn leads to an inability to borrow at attractive rates or at all, our ability to obtain capital to finance our loans to borrowers could be negatively impacted. In addition, while we do not consider our Company to be engaged in the cannabis industry, banks and other financial institutions may be reluctant to enter into lending transactions with us, particularly secured lending, because we intend to invest in companies involved in the cultivation, manufacturing and sale of cannabis. To date, we have been unable to obtain outside debt financing on terms and conditions better or equivalent to our current, affiliated debt financing. If debt financing with competitive rates continues to be unavailable to us on acceptable terms, our growth may be limited and our levered return on the loans we make may be lower.

If we are unable to obtain capital on terms and conditions that we find acceptable, we likely will have to reduce the loans we make. In addition, our ability to refinance all or any debt we may incur in the future, on acceptable terms or at all, is subject to all of the above factors, and will also be affected by our future financial position, results of operations and cash flows, which additional factors are also subject to significant uncertainties, and therefore we may be unable to refinance any debt we may incur in the future, as it matures, on acceptable terms or at all. All of these events would have a material adverse effect on our business, financial condition, liquidity and results of operations.

Relatedly, due to the growth in the cannabis industry, the continued development and operation of businesses in the cannabis industry may require additional financing. The failure of our borrowers to raise such capital could result in the delay or indefinite postponement of current business objectives or the cessation of business, which could materially and adversely affect our debt investments in, or loans to borrowers.

Global economic, political and market conditions could have a significant adverse effect on our business, financial condition, liquidity and results of operations, including a negative impact on our ability to access the debt markets on favorable terms.

Downgrades by rating agencies to the U.S. government's credit rating or concerns about its credit and deficit levels in general could cause interest rates and borrowing costs to rise, which may negatively impact both the perception of credit risk associated portfolio and our ability to access the debt markets on favorable terms. In addition, a decreased U.S. government credit rating could create broader financial turmoil and uncertainty, which may weigh heavily on our financial performance and the value of our equity. Additionally, concerns regarding a potential increase in inflation would likely cause interest rates and borrowing costs to rise.

Deterioration in the economic conditions in the Eurozone and globally, including instability in financial markets, may pose a risk to our business. In recent years, financial markets have been affected at times by a number of global macroeconomic and political events, including the following: large sovereign debts and fiscal deficits of several countries in Europe and in emerging markets jurisdictions, levels of non-performing loans on the balance sheets of European banks, the potential effect of any European country leaving the Eurozone, and market volatility and loss of investor confidence driven by political events. Market and economic disruptions have affected, and may in the future affect, consumer confidence levels and spending, personal bankruptcy rates, levels of incurrence and default on consumer debt and home prices, among other factors. We cannot assure you that market disruptions in Europe, including the increased cost of funding for certain governments and financial institutions, will not impact the global economy, and we cannot assure you that assistance packages will be available, or if available, be sufficient to stabilize countries and markets in Europe or elsewhere affected by a financial crisis. To the extent uncertainty regarding any economic recovery in Europe negatively impacts consumer confidence and consumer credit factors, our business, financial condition and results of operations could be significantly and adversely affected.

The Chinese capital markets have also experienced periods of instability over the past several years. The current political climate has also intensified concerns about (i) a potential trade war between the U.S. and China in connection with each country's recent or proposed tariffs on the other country's products and (ii) military conflicts between Russia and Ukraine and Israel and Hamas. These market and economic disruptions, the potential trade war with China and the military conflicts between Russia and Ukraine and Israel and Hamas have affected, and may in the future affect, the U.S. capital markets, which could adversely affect our business, financial condition or results of operations.

The year ended December 31, 2023 has been characterized by steep declines and significant volatility in global markets, driven by investor concerns over inflation, continued rising interest rates, slowing economic growth and geopolitical uncertainty. Inflation across many key economies reached generational highs, prompting central banks to take monetary policy tightening actions that are likely to create headwinds to economic growth. The ongoing conflicts between Russia and Ukraine and Israel and Hamas are also contributing to economic and geopolitical uncertainty.

The current global financial market situation, as well as various social and political circumstances in the U.S. and around the world (including wars and other forms of conflict, terrorist acts, security operations and catastrophic events such as fires, floods, earthquakes, tornadoes, hurricanes and global health epidemics), may contribute to increased market volatility and economic uncertainties or deterioration in the U.S. and worldwide. Additionally, the U.S. government's credit and deficit concerns, the European sovereign debt crisis, the potential trade war with China and military conflicts between Russia and Ukraine and Israel and Hamas could cause interest rates to be volatile, which may negatively impact our ability to access the debt markets on favorable terms.

Subject to the terms of the Indenture governing our 2027 Senior Notes, we may incur significant debt, which may subject us to restrictive covenants and increased risk of loss and may reduce cash available for distributions to our shareholders, and our governing documents and current credit facility contain no limit on the amount of debt we may incur.

Subject to market conditions, availability and the terms of the Indenture governing our 2027 Senior Notes, we may incur significant debt through bank credit facilities (including term loans and revolving facilities), public and private debt issuances and derivative instruments, in addition to transaction or asset specific funding arrangements. The percentage of leverage we employ will vary depending on our available capital, our ability to obtain and access financing arrangements with lenders, debt restrictions contained in those financing arrangements and the lenders' and rating agencies' estimate of the stability of our portfolio's cash flow. Our governing documents and our Revolving Credit Agreement contain no limit on the amount of debt we may incur, and, subject to the covenants contained in the Indenture, we may significantly increase the amount of leverage we utilize at any time without approval of our shareholders. Leverage can enhance our potential returns but can also exacerbate our losses. Incurring substantial debt could subject us to many risks that, if realized, would materially and adversely affect us, including, but not limited to, the risks that:

- our cash flow from operations may be insufficient to make required payments of principal of and interest on the debt we incur or we may fail to comply with all of the other covenants contained in such debt, which is likely to result in (i) acceleration of such debt (and any other debt containing a cross-default or cross-acceleration provision) that we may be unable to repay from internal funds or to refinance on favorable terms, or at all, (ii) our inability to borrow unused amounts under our financing arrangements, even if we are current in payments on borrowings under those arrangements, and/or (iii) the loss of some or all of our assets to foreclosure or sale;
- we may be unable to borrow additional funds as needed or on favorable terms, or at all;
- to the extent we borrow debt that bears interest at variable rates, increases in interest rates could materially increase our interest expense;
- our default under any loan with cross-default provisions could result in a default on other indebtedness;
- incurring debt may increase our vulnerability to adverse economic and industry conditions with no assurance that loan yields will increase with higher financing costs;
- we may be required to dedicate a substantial portion of our cash flow from operations to payments on the debt we may incur, thereby reducing funds available for operations, future business opportunities, shareholder distributions, including distributions currently contemplated or necessary to satisfy the requirements for REIT qualification, or other purposes; and
- we are not able to refinance debt that matures prior to the loan it was used to finance on favorable terms, or at all.

There can be no assurance that a leveraging strategy will be successful. If any one of these events were to occur, our financial condition, results of operations, cash flow, and our ability to make distributions to our shareholders could be materially and adversely affected.

Our indebtedness may affect our ability to operate our business, and may have a material adverse effect on our financial condition and results of operations.

As of December 31, 2023, our total consolidated indebtedness, including that of our subsidiaries, was approximately \$132.0 million (excluding debt issuance costs and accrued interests), including \$42.0 million that we had drawn under our Revolving Credit Facility. On December 29, 2023, we drew \$42.0 million on our Revolving Credit Facility and all outstanding borrowings under the Revolving Credit Facility were subsequently repaid in full on January 2, 2024. Our indebtedness could have significant adverse consequences to us, such as:

- limiting our ability to satisfy our financial obligations;
- limiting our ability to obtain additional financing to fund our working capital needs, acquisitions, capital expenditures or other debt service requirements or for other purposes;
- limiting our ability to use operating cash flow in other areas of our business because we must dedicate a substantial portion of these funds to service debt;
- limiting our ability to compete with other companies who are not as highly leveraged, as we may be less capable of responding to adverse economic and industry conditions;

- restricting us from making strategic acquisitions, developing properties or exploiting business opportunities;
- restricting the way in which we conduct our business because of financial and operating covenants;
- covenants in the agreements governing our and our subsidiaries' existing and future indebtedness;
- exposing us to potential events of default (if not cured or waived) under financial and operating covenants contained in our or our subsidiaries' debt instruments that could have a material adverse effect on our business, financial condition and operating results;
- increasing our vulnerability to a downturn in general economic conditions; and
- limiting our ability to react to changing market conditions in our industry and in our borrowers' industries.

In addition to our debt service obligations, our operations may require substantial investments. Our ability to make scheduled debt payments, to refinance our obligations with respect to our indebtedness and to fund capital and non-capital expenditures necessary to maintain the condition of our properties, as well as to provide capacity for the growth of our business, depends on our financial and operating performance, which, in turn, is subject to prevailing economic conditions and financial, business, competitive, legal and other factors.

We may not be able to generate sufficient cash flow to meet our debt service obligations.

Our ability to make payments on our outstanding debt, and to fund our operations, working capital and capital expenditures, depends on our ability to generate cash in the future. To a certain extent, our cash flow is subject to general economic, industry, financial, competitive, operating, legislative, regulatory and other factors, many of which are beyond our control.

Holders of the 2027 Senior Notes have the right to require us to repurchase such 2027 Senior Notes for cash upon the occurrence of designated events. We expect that our future debt agreements or securities may contain similar provisions. We may not have sufficient funds to make the required repurchase or settlement, as applicable, of the 2027 Senior Notes in cash at the applicable time and, in such circumstances, may not be able to arrange the necessary financing on favorable terms, or at all. Similarly, our future subsidiary guarantors of the 2027 Senior Notes, if any, may not have sufficient funds with which to pay such amounts in respect of their guarantees of the 2027 Senior Notes, if any. In addition, our ability to make the required repurchase or settlement may be limited by law or the terms of other debt agreements or securities, as may be any subsidiary guarantor's ability to make payments in respect of its guarantee on such 2027 Senior Notes, if any. However, our failure to make the required repurchase or settlement, as applicable, of the 2027 Senior Notes, and any subsidiary guarantor's failure to pay such amounts pursuant to its guarantee of the 2027 Senior Notes, if any, would constitute an event of default under the applicable indenture which, in turn, could constitute an event of default under other debt agreements, thereby resulting in the acceleration and required prepayment of such other debt agreements and further restricting our ability to make such payments and repurchases.

We cannot assure you that our business will generate sufficient cash flow from operations or that future sources of cash will be available to us in an amount sufficient to enable us to pay amounts due on our indebtedness, including the 2027 Senior Notes and the Revolving Credit Facility, or to fund our other liquidity needs. Additionally, if we incur additional indebtedness in connection with future acquisitions or development projects or for any other purpose, our debt service obligations could increase.

We may need to refinance all or a portion of our indebtedness, including the 2027 Senior Notes and the Revolving Credit Facility, on or before maturity. Our ability to refinance our indebtedness or obtain additional financing will depend on, among other things:

- our financial condition and market conditions at the time; and
- restrictions in the agreements governing our indebtedness.

As a result, we may not be able to refinance any of our indebtedness, including the 2027 Senior Notes and the Revolving Credit Facility, on commercially reasonable terms, or at all. If we do not generate sufficient cash flow from operations, and additional borrowings or refinancings or proceeds of asset sales or other sources of cash are not available to us, we may not have sufficient cash to enable us to meet all of our obligations, including payments on the 2027 Senior Notes and the Revolving Credit Facility. Accordingly, if we cannot service our indebtedness, we may have to take actions such as seeking additional equity or delaying capital expenditures, or strategic acquisitions and alliances, any of which could have a material adverse effect on our operations. We cannot assure you that we will be able to effect any of these actions on commercially reasonable terms, or at all.

Monetary policy actions by the Federal Reserve could adversely impact both our borrowers and our financial condition.

We, as well as our borrowers, are affected by the fiscal and monetary policies of the United States Government and its agencies, including the policies of the Federal Reserve, which regulates the supply of money and credit in the United States. In an effort to combat rising inflation levels, the Federal Reserve steadily began increasing the target federal funds rate in the first quarter of 2022 and continued to do so through the third quarter of 2023. The Federal Funds Target Rate increased by 5.25 percentage points between March 2022 and December 2023. Changes in the federal funds rate as well as the other policies of the Federal Reserve affect interest rates, which have a significant impact on the demand for debt capital. Changes in fiscal and monetary policies are beyond our control, are difficult to predict and could materially adversely affect us and our borrowers.

Any lending facilities will impose restrictive covenants.

Any lending facilities which we enter would be expected to contain, customary negative covenants and other financial and operating covenants, that among other things, may affect our ability to incur additional debt, make certain loans or acquisitions, reduce liquidity below certain levels, make distributions to our shareholders, redeem debt or equity securities and impact our flexibility to determine our operating policies and loan and investment strategies. For example, such loan documents typically contain negative covenants that limit, among other things, our ability to repurchase our equity, distribute more than a certain amount of our net income or funds from operations to our shareholders, employ leverage beyond certain amounts, sell assets, engage in mergers or consolidations, grant liens, and enter into transactions with affiliates. If we fail to meet or satisfy any such covenants, we would likely be in default under these agreements, and the lenders could elect to declare outstanding amounts due and payable, terminate their commitments, require the posting of additional collateral and enforce their interests against existing collateral. We could also become subject to cross-default and acceleration rights and, with respect to collateralized debt, the posting of additional collateral and foreclosure rights upon default. Further, such restrictions could also make it difficult for us to satisfy the qualification requirements necessary to maintain our status as a REIT.

Interest rate fluctuations could increase our financing costs, which could lead to a significant decrease in our results of operations, cash flows and the market value of our loans.

Our primary interest rate exposures will relate to the financing cost of our debt. To the extent that our financing costs will be determined by reference to floating rates, the amount of such costs will depend on a variety of factors, including, without limitation, (i) for collateralized debt, the value and liquidity of the collateral, and for non-collateralized debt, our credit, (ii) the level and movement of interest rates, and (iii) general market conditions and liquidity. In a period of rising interest rates, our interest expense on floating-rate debt would increase, while any additional interest income we earn on our floating-rate loans may not compensate for such increase in interest expense. At the same time, the interest income we earn on our fixed-rate loans would not change, the duration and weighted average life of our fixed-rate loans would increase and the market value of our fixed-rate loans would decrease. Similarly, in a period of declining interest rates, our interest income on floating-rate loans would decrease, while any decrease in the interest we are charged on our floating-rate debt may not compensate for such decrease in interest income and interest we are charged on our fixed-rate debt would not change. Any such scenario could materially and adversely affect us.

Any bank credit facilities that we may use in the future to finance our operations may require us to provide collateral or pay down debt.

We may utilize bank credit facilities (including term loans and revolving facilities) to finance our loans if they become available on acceptable terms. We may not have the funds available to repay our debt at that time, which would likely result in defaults unless we are able to raise the funds from alternative sources, which we may not be able to achieve on favorable terms or at all. If we cannot meet these requirements, lenders could accelerate our indebtedness, increase the interest rate on advanced funds and terminate our ability to borrow funds from it, which could materially and adversely affect our financial condition and ability to implement our investment strategy. In addition, if a lender files for bankruptcy or becomes insolvent, our loans may become subject to bankruptcy or insolvency proceedings, thus depriving us, at least temporarily, of the benefit of such loans. Such an event could restrict our access to bank credit facilities and increase our cost of capital. The providers of bank credit facilities may also require us to maintain a certain amount of cash or set aside assets sufficient to maintain a specified liquidity position that would allow us to satisfy our collateral obligations. As a result, we may not be able to obtain leverage as fully as we would choose, which could reduce the return on our loans. If we are unable to meet these collateral obligations, our financial condition and prospects could deteriorate rapidly.

In addition, there can be no assurance that we will be able to obtain bank credit facilities on favorable terms, or at all. Banks and other financial institutions may be reluctant to enter into lending transactions with us.

Adoption of the Basel III standards and other proposed supplementary regulatory standards may negatively impact our access to financing or affect the terms of our future financing arrangements.

In response to various financial crises and the volatility of financial markets, the Basel Committee on Banking Supervision (the “Basel Committee”) adopted the Basel III standards several years ago to reform, among other things, bank capital adequacy, stress testing, and market liquidity risk. United States regulators have elected to implement substantially all of the Basel III standards and have even implemented rules requiring enhanced supplementary leverage ratio standards, which impose capital requirements more stringent than those of the Basel III standards for the most systematically significant banking organizations in the United States. Adoption and implementation of the Basel III standards and the supplemental regulatory standards adopted by United States regulators may negatively impact our access to financing or affect the terms of our future financing arrangements due to an increase in capital requirements for, and constraints on, the financial institutions from which we may borrow.

Moreover, in January 2019, the Basel Committee published its revised capital requirements for market risk, known as Fundamental Review of the Trading Book (“FRTB”), which are expected to generally result in higher global capital requirements for banks that could, in turn, reduce liquidity and increase financing and hedging costs. The impact of FRTB will not be known until after any resulting rules are finalized and implemented by the United States federal bank regulatory agencies.

Risks Related to the Spin-Off

Following the Separation, our financial profile will change, and we will be a smaller, less diversified company than prior to the Separation.

The separation of our commercial real estate lending business (the “Separation”) will result in each of Sunrise Realty Trust, Inc. (“SUNS”) and us being smaller, less diversified companies with more limited businesses concentrated in our respective industries. As a result, we and SUNS may be more vulnerable to changing market conditions, which could have a material adverse effect on our business, financial condition and results of operations. In addition, the diversification of our revenues, costs, and cash flows will diminish as a standalone company, such that our results of operations, cash flows, working capital and financing requirements may be subject to increased volatility and our ability to fund capital expenditures and investments may be diminished.

We may not achieve some or all of the expected benefits of the Separation and Distribution, and the Separation and Distribution may materially adversely affect our business.

We may not be able to achieve the full strategic and financial benefits expected to result from the Separation and the distribute all of the outstanding shares of SUNS common stock (“SUNS Common Stock”) on the distribution date to our stockholders as of the record date on a pro rata basis (the “Distribution”), or such benefits may be delayed or not occur at all. The Separation and Distribution is expected to provide the following benefits, among others: (1) enabling each company’s management to more effectively pursue its own distinct investment priorities and strategies; (2) permitting us to allocate our financial resources to meet the unique needs of our business, which will allow us to specialize on our distinct strategic priorities and to more effectively pursue our own distinct capital allocation and portfolio management strategies; (3) allowing each company to more effectively articulate a clear investment thesis to attract a long-term investor base suited to our business and providing investors with a distinct and targeted investment opportunity; and (4) enhancing access to financing to support SUNS, which will no longer be subject to the current regulatory environment with respect to lending to cannabis industry operators.

We may not achieve these and other anticipated benefits for a variety of reasons, including, among others: (1) following the Separation and Distribution, we may be more susceptible to market fluctuations and other adverse events than if SUNS were still a part of the Company because our business will be less diversified than prior to the completion of the Separation; (2) the Separation and Distribution will demand management’s time and effort, which may divert management’s attention from operating and growing our business; (3) the Separation may require us to pay costs that could be substantial and material to our financial resources, including accounting, tax, legal and other professional services costs, recruiting costs, and tax costs; and (4) after the Separation and Distribution, we cannot predict the trading prices of SUNS Common Stock or know whether the combined trading prices of our common stock and SUNS Common Stock will be less than, equal to or greater than the market value of our common stock prior to the Separation and Distribution. If we fail to achieve some or all of the benefits expected to result from the Separation, or if such benefits are delayed, it could have a material adverse effect on our competitive position, business, financial condition, results of operations and cash flows.

Our plan to separate into two publicly-traded companies is subject to various risks and uncertainties and may not be completed in accordance with the expected plans or anticipated timeline, or at all, and will involve significant time and expense, which could disrupt or adversely affect our business.

The Separation and Distribution is subject to the satisfaction of certain conditions (or waiver by us in our sole and absolute discretion), including final approval by our Board of the final terms of the Separation and Distribution. Furthermore, unanticipated developments or changes, including changes in the law, the macroeconomic environment, competitive conditions of our markets could delay or prevent the completion of the proposed Separation and Distribution, or cause the Separation and Distribution to occur on terms or conditions that are different or less favorable than expected.

The process of completing the proposed Separation and Distribution has been and is expected to continue to be time-consuming and involves significant costs and expenses. The costs may be significantly higher than what we currently anticipate and may not yield a discernible benefit if the Separation and Distribution is not completed or is not well-executed, or the expected benefits of the Separation and Distribution are not realized.

We expect to share accounting and other management systems and resources, including our Chief Financial Officer, with SUNS, which may make it more challenging for us to comply with our financial reporting requirements generally and in a timely manner.

Prior to the Distribution, the Company believes that SUNS reporting and control systems have been appropriate for those of a subsidiary of a public company. However, SUNS has not been directly subject to the reporting and other requirements of the Exchange Act. As a result of the Distribution, SUNS will be directly subject to reporting and other obligations under the Exchange Act. These reporting and other obligations will place significant demands on SUNS management and administrative and operational resources, including accounting resources. Our Chief Financial Officer and Chief Accounting Officer, Brandon Hetzel, is expected to be SUNS' expected Chief Financial Officer and expected Chief Accounting Officer. His financial reporting staff that he will manage is expected to also spend time supporting both companies. As a result, it may be more challenging for us to comply with the various financial reporting requirements generally and in a timely manner. Further, Mr. Hetzel and his financial reporting staff will not be our employees and, instead, will be employees of Sunrise Manager LLC, an investment adviser with overlapping ownership to our Manager and certain shared services (the "SUNS Manager"). As a result, he and the staff members may provide services to additional entities that are affiliated with the SUNS Manager, which will further divert resources Mr. Hetzel and his financial reporting staff could provide to us. We may not have sufficient time following the Separation to meet these obligations by the applicable deadlines.

In connection with the separation into two public companies, each of the Company and SUNS will indemnify each other for certain liabilities. If we are required to pay under these indemnities to SUNS, our financial results could be negatively impacted. In addition, the SUNS indemnities may not be sufficient to hold us harmless from the full amount of liabilities for which SUNS will be allocated responsibility, and SUNS may not be able to satisfy its indemnification obligations in the future.

Pursuant to the separation and distribution agreement and certain other agreements between SUNS and us, each party will agree to indemnify the other for certain liabilities. Third parties could also seek to hold us responsible for any of the liabilities that SUNS has agreed to retain. Any amounts we are required to pay pursuant to these indemnification obligations and other liabilities could require us to divert cash that would otherwise have been used in furtherance of our operating business. Further, the indemnities from SUNS for our benefit may not be sufficient to protect us against the full amount of such liabilities, and SUNS may not be able to fully satisfy its indemnification obligations.

Moreover, even if we ultimately succeed in recovering from SUNS any amounts for which we are held liable, we may be temporarily required to bear these losses ourselves. Each of these risks could negatively affect our business, results of operations and financial condition.

Our agreements with SUNS involve potential conflicts of interest.

The agreements we will enter into with SUNS in connection with the Separation were prepared in the context of the Separation while SUNS was still a wholly-owned subsidiary of the Company. Accordingly, during the period in which the terms of those agreements were prepared, SUNS did not have an independent Board of Directors or a management team that was independent of the Company. As a result, the terms of those agreements may not reflect terms that would have resulted from arm's-length negotiations between unaffiliated third parties. For example, the allocation of assets, liabilities, rights, indemnification and other obligations between SUNS and us under the separation and distribution agreement may have been different if agreed to by two unaffiliated parties.

After the Separation and Distribution, some of our directors and officers may have actual or potential conflicts of interest because of their equity ownership in SUNS.

Because of their current or former positions with SUNS, following the Separation and Distribution, some of our directors and executive officers may own shares of SUNS Common Stock, and the individual holdings may be significant for some of these individuals compared to their total assets. This ownership may create, or may create the appearance of, conflicts of interest when these directors and officers are faced with decisions that could have different implications for SUNS or us. For example, potential conflicts of interest could arise in connection with the resolution of any dispute that may arise between SUNS and us regarding the terms of the agreements governing the Separation and the relationship thereafter between the companies.

The distribution of SUNS Common Stock will not qualify for tax-free treatment and may be taxable to you as a dividend.

The distribution of SUNS Common Stock will not qualify for tax-free treatment. An amount equal to the fair market value of the SUNS Common Stock received by you on the distribution date (plus any cash received in connection with, or at or around the time of, the Distribution) will be treated as a taxable dividend to the extent of your ratable share of any current or accumulated earnings and profits of the Company, with the excess treated first as a non-taxable return of capital to the extent of your tax basis in SUNS Common Stock and then as capital gain. There can be no assurances that the Company or SUNS will make cash distributions in an amount sufficient to satisfy any tax liability resulting from the Distribution. In that case, you may be required to satisfy that tax liability from other funds.

Additionally, the Company's current earnings and profits are measured as of the end of the tax year and are generally allocated to all distributions made during such tax year on a pro rata basis. As a result, the Company expects that a proportionate part of the Company's current earnings and profits for the entire taxable year of the Separation and Distribution, as well as any accumulated earnings and profits for previous taxable years, will be allocated to the Distribution. That proportionate part will be treated as dividend income to you even if you have not held our common stock for the entire taxable year of the Company in which the Separation and Distribution occurs. Thus, if you did not hold our common stock for the entire taxable year of the Company in which the Spin-Off occurs, you may be allocated current or accumulated earnings and profits of the Company derived from periods during which you did not own our common stock.

The Company or other applicable withholding agents may be required or permitted to withhold at the applicable rate on all or a portion of the distribution payable to non-U.S. Holders (as defined below), and there can be no assurances that cash distributions from the Company or SUNS will be sufficient to satisfy that withholding tax liability. In such case, with respect to non-U.S. holders, the Company or other withholding agent may be required or permitted to satisfy any withholding tax liability by selling a portion of the SUNS Common Stock otherwise distributable to the applicable holder, by withholding from other property held in the non-U.S. holder's account with the withholding agent or otherwise. In addition, because the Company will not be able to advise stockholders of the amount of its earnings and profits allocable to the Distribution until after the end of 2024, the applicable withholding agent may withhold an amount with respect to the Distribution that is substantially more than the non-U.S. Holder's ultimate withholding tax liability. Non-U.S. Holders may seek a refund from the IRS of any amounts withheld if it is subsequently determined that the amounts withheld exceeded the holder's U.S. tax liability for the year in which the Distribution occurred.

Your tax basis in shares of the Company held at the time of the distribution will be reduced (but not below zero) if the fair market value of SUNS Common Stock distributed by the Company to you in the distribution (plus any cash received in connection with, or at or around the time of, the Distribution) exceeds your ratable share of our current and accumulated earnings and profits. Your holding period for our common stock will not be affected by the distribution.

Although the Company will be ascribing a value to our shares in the Distribution for tax purposes, this valuation is not binding on the Internal Revenue Service or any other tax authority. These taxing authorities could ascribe a higher valuation to SUNS shares, particularly if SUNS Common Stock trades at prices significantly above the value ascribed to the shares by us in the period following the Separation and Distribution. Such a higher valuation may cause a larger reduction in the tax basis of our common stock or may cause you to recognize additional dividend or capital gain income. You should consult your own tax advisor as to the particular tax consequences of the distribution to you.

Risks Related to Our Organization and Structure

Provisions in our Charter and our amended and restated bylaws (our “Bylaws”) may have anti-takeover effects that could discourage an acquisition of us by others, even if an acquisition would be beneficial to our shareholders, and may prevent attempts by our stockholders to replace or remove our current management.

Our Charter and our Bylaws contain provisions that may have the effect of delaying or preventing a change in control of us or changes in our management. Our Charter and Bylaws include, among others, provisions that:

- authorize our Board, without your approval, to cause us to issue additional shares of our common stock or to raise capital through the creation and issuance of our preferred stock, debt securities convertible into common stock, options, warrants and other rights, on terms and for consideration as our Board in its sole discretion may determine;
- authorize “blank check” preferred stock, which could be issued by our Board without shareholder approval, subject to certain specified limitations, and may contain voting, liquidation, dividend and other rights senior to our common stock;
- establish a classified Board such that not all members of the Board are elected at each annual meeting of shareholders, which may delay the ability of our stockholders to change the membership of a majority of our Board;
- specify that only our Board, the chairman of our Board, our chief executive officer or president or, upon the written request of shareholders entitled to cast not less than a majority of the votes entitled to be cast, our secretary can call special meetings of our shareholders;
- establish advance notice procedures for shareholder proposals to be brought before an annual meeting of our shareholders, including proposed nominations of individuals for election to our Board;
- provide that a majority of directors then in office, even though less than a quorum, may fill any vacancy on our Board, whether resulting from an increase in the number of directors or otherwise;
- specify that no shareholder is permitted to cumulate votes at any election of directors;
- provide our Board the exclusive power to adopt, alter or repeal any provision of our Bylaws and to make new Bylaws; and
- require supermajority votes of the holders of our common stock to amend specified provisions of our Charter.

These provisions, alone or together, could delay or prevent hostile takeovers and changes in control or changes in our management.

Any provision of our Charter or Bylaws that has the effect of delaying or deterring a change in control could limit your opportunity to receive a premium for your shares of our common stock, and could also affect the price that some investors are willing to pay for our common stock. Any person or entity purchasing or otherwise acquiring any interest in shares of our capital stock shall be deemed to have notice of and to have consented to the provisions of our Charter and Bylaws described above.

Our authorized but unissued shares of common stock and preferred stock may prevent a change in control of our Company.

The Charter authorizes us to issue shares of our common stock and preferred stock without shareholder approval, subject to certain specified limitations. In addition, subject to certain voting rights specifically provided in our Charter or by state statute, our Board may, without shareholder approval, amend the Charter from time to time to increase or decrease the aggregate number of shares of our stock or the number of shares of stock of any class or series that we have authority to issue and classify or reclassify any unissued shares of our common stock and preferred stock and set the preferences, rights and other terms of the classified or reclassified shares. As a result, our Board may, subject to certain specified limitations, establish a class or series of shares of our common stock and preferred stock that could delay or prevent a merger, third-party tender offer, change of control or similar transaction or a change in incumbent management that might involve a premium price for shares of our common stock or otherwise be in the best interests of our shareholders.

The Maryland General Corporation Law prohibits certain business combinations, which may make it more difficult for us to be acquired.

We are a Maryland corporation and subject to the Maryland General Corporation Law ("MGCL"). Under the MGCL, "business combinations" between a Maryland corporation and an "interested stockholder" or an affiliate of an interested stockholder are prohibited for five years after the most recent date on which the interested stockholder becomes an interested stockholder. These business combinations include a merger, consolidation, share exchange or, in circumstances specified in the statute, an asset transfer or issuance or reclassification of equity securities. An interested stockholder is defined as: (a) any person who beneficially owns, directly or indirectly, 10% or more of the voting power of the then-outstanding voting stock of a corporation; or (b) an affiliate or associate of a corporation who, at any time within the two-year period prior to the date in question, was the beneficial owner, directly or indirectly, of 10% or more of the voting power of the then-outstanding stock of such corporation.

A person is not an interested stockholder under the statute if the board of directors approved in advance the transaction by which the person otherwise would have become an interested stockholder. However, in approving a transaction, the board of directors may provide that its approval is subject to compliance, at or after the time of approval, with any terms and conditions determined by the board of directors.

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

- 80% of the votes entitled to be cast by holders of the then-outstanding shares of voting stock of such corporation; and
- two-thirds of the votes entitled to be cast by holders of voting stock of such corporation, other than shares held by the interested stockholder with whom or with whose affiliate the business combination is to be effected, or held by an affiliate or associate of the interested stockholder.

These supermajority vote requirements do not apply if the corporation's common shareholders receive a minimum price, as defined under the MGCL, for their shares in the form of cash or other consideration in the same form as previously paid by the interested stockholder for its shares. The MGCL also permits various exemptions from these provisions, including business combinations that are exempted by the board of directors before the time that the interested stockholder becomes an interested stockholder. Pursuant to the statute, our Board has adopted a resolution exempting any business combination with Leonard M. Tannenbaum, or any of his affiliates. Consequently, the five-year prohibition and the supermajority vote requirements will not apply to a business combination between us and Leonard M. Tannenbaum or any of his affiliates. As a result, Leonard M. Tannenbaum or any of his affiliates may be able to enter into business combinations with us that may not be in the best interest of our shareholders, without compliance with the supermajority vote requirements and the other provisions of the statute. The business combination statute may discourage others from trying to acquire control of our Company and increase the difficulty of consummating any offer.

In addition, under the MGCL, holders of our "control shares" (defined as voting shares of stock that, if aggregated with all other shares of stock owned or controlled by the acquirer, would entitle the acquirer to exercise one of three increasing ranges of voting power in electing directors) acquired in a "control share acquisition" (defined as the direct or indirect acquisition of issued and outstanding "control shares") have no voting rights except to the extent approved by our shareholders by the affirmative vote of at least two-thirds of all of the votes entitled to be cast on the matter, excluding all interested shares. Our Bylaws contain a provision exempting from the Maryland Control Share Acquisition Act any and all acquisitions by any person of shares of our capital stock. There can be no assurance that this exemption will not be amended or eliminated at any time in the future.

The Charter contains provisions that make removal of our directors difficult, which could make it difficult for our shareholders to effect changes to management.

The Charter provides that a director may only be removed for cause upon the affirmative vote of holders of a majority of the votes entitled to be cast generally in the election of directors. This requirement makes it more difficult to change our management by removing and replacing directors and may prevent a change of control that is in the best interests of our shareholders.

Our Bylaws designate the Circuit Court for Baltimore City, Maryland as the sole and exclusive forum for certain types of actions and proceedings that may be initiated by our shareholders and provide that claims relating to causes of action under the Securities Act may only be brought in federal district courts, which could limit shareholders' ability to obtain a favorable judicial forum for disputes with us or our directors, officers or employees, if any, and could discourage lawsuits against us and our directors, officers and employees, if any.

Our Bylaws provide that, unless we consent in writing to the selection of an alternative forum, the Circuit Court for Baltimore City, Maryland, or, if that court does not have jurisdiction, the United States District Court for the District of Maryland, Northern Division, will be the sole and exclusive forum for (a) any Internal Corporate Claim, as such term is defined in the MGCL, (b) any derivative action or proceeding brought on our behalf (other than actions arising under federal securities laws), (c) any action asserting a claim of breach of any duty owed by any of our directors, officers or other employees to us or to our shareholders, (d) any action asserting a claim against us or any of our directors, officers or other employees arising pursuant to any provision of the MGCL or our Charter or Bylaws or (e) any other action asserting a claim against us or any of our directors, officers or other employees that is governed by the internal affairs doctrine. These choice of forum provisions will not apply to suits brought to enforce a duty or liability created by the Securities Act, the Exchange Act, or any other claim for which federal courts have exclusive jurisdiction. Furthermore, our Bylaws provide that, unless we consent in writing to the selection of an alternative forum, the federal district courts of the United States of America shall, to the fullest extent permitted by law, be the sole and exclusive forum for the resolution of any claim arising under the Securities Act.

These exclusive forum provisions may limit the ability of our shareholders to bring a claim in a judicial forum that such shareholders find favorable for disputes with us or our directors, officers, or employees, if any, which may discourage such lawsuits against us and our directors, officers, and employees, if any. Alternatively, if a court were to find the choice of forum provisions contained in our Bylaws to be inapplicable or unenforceable in an action, we may incur additional costs associated with resolving such action in other jurisdictions, which could materially adversely affect our business, financial condition, and operating results. For example, under the Securities Act, federal courts have concurrent jurisdiction over all suits brought to enforce any duty or liability created by the Securities Act, and investors cannot waive compliance with the federal securities laws and the rules and regulations thereunder. In addition, the exclusive forum provisions described above do not apply to any actions brought under the Exchange Act.

Ownership limitations contained in the Charter may restrict change of control or business combination opportunities in which our shareholders might receive a premium for their shares.

In order for us to qualify as a REIT, for each taxable year after our first REIT taxable year, no more than 50% in value of our outstanding capital stock may be owned, directly or indirectly, by five or fewer individuals during the last half of any taxable year (other than the first year for which an election to be a REIT has been made). "Individuals" for this purpose include natural persons, private foundations, some employee benefit plans and trusts, and some charitable trusts. To preserve our REIT qualification, the Charter includes ownership limits based on the value and number of outstanding shares of our capital stock. Subject to certain exceptions, (i) (i) no person, other than a Qualified Institutional Investor (as defined in our Charter) or an Excepted Holder (as defined in our charter), shall beneficially own or constructively own shares of our capital stock in excess of the aggregate stock ownership limit set forth in our Charter, (ii) no Qualified Institutional Investor, other than an Excepted Holder, shall beneficially own or constructively own shares of our capital stock in excess of the aggregate stock ownership limit applicable to Qualified Institutional Investor as set forth in our Charter and (iii) no Excepted Holder shall beneficially own or constructively own shares of our capital stock in excess of the stock ownership limit applicable to such Excepted Holder. Leonard M. Tannenbaum is an Excepted Holder and may maintain an equity interest up to 29.9% in value or number of shares, whichever is more restrictive, of our Company. These ownership limitations could have the effect of discouraging a takeover or other transaction in which our shareholders might receive a premium for their shares over the then prevailing market price or which holders might believe to be otherwise in their best interests.

Maintenance of our exemption from registration under the Investment Company Act may impose significant limits on our operations. Your investment return in our common stock may be reduced if we are required to register as an investment company under the Investment Company Act.

We intend to conduct our operations so that we will be exempt from the provisions of the Investment Company Act pursuant to an exemption contained in 3(c)(5) thereunder. The Investment Company Act provides certain protection to investors and imposes certain restrictions on registered investment companies (including, for example, limitations on the ability of registered investment companies to incur leverage), none of which will be applicable to us.

We classify our assets for purposes of our 3(c)(5)(C) exemption based upon no-action positions taken by the SEC staff and interpretive guidance provided by the SEC and its staff. These no-action positions are based on specific factual situations that may be substantially different from the factual situations we may face. No assurance can be given that the SEC or its staff will concur with our classification of our assets. In addition, the SEC or its staff may, in the future, issue further guidance that may require us to re-classify our assets for purposes of the Investment Company Act. If we are required to reclassify our assets, we may no longer be in compliance with the exemption from the definition of an investment company provided by Section 3(c)(5)(C) of the Investment Company Act.

A change in the value of any of our assets could negatively affect our ability to maintain our exemption from regulation under the Investment Company Act. To maintain compliance with the applicable exemption under the Investment Company Act, we may be unable to sell assets we would otherwise want to sell and may need to sell assets we would otherwise wish to retain. In addition, we may have to acquire additional assets that we might not otherwise have acquired or may have to forego opportunities to acquire assets that we would otherwise want to acquire and would be important to our investment strategy.

A failure by us to maintain this exemption would require us to significantly restructure our investment strategy. For example, because affiliate transactions are generally prohibited under the Investment Company Act, we would not be able to enter into transactions with any of our affiliates if we are required to register as an investment company, which could have a material adverse effect on our ability to operate the business and pay distributions. If we were required to register as an investment company but failed to do so, we would be prohibited from engaging in our business, and criminal and civil actions could be brought against us. In addition, our contracts would be unenforceable unless a court required enforcement, and a court could appoint a receiver to take control of such entity and liquidate its business.

Rapid and steep declines in the values of our real estate-related investments may make it more difficult for us to maintain our qualification as a REIT or exemption from the Investment Company Act.

If the market value or income potential of real estate-related investments declines as a result of increased interest rates or other factors, we may need to increase our real estate loans and income and/or liquidate our non-qualifying assets in order to maintain our REIT qualification or exemption from the Investment Company Act. If the decline in real estate asset values and/or income occurs quickly, this may be especially difficult to accomplish. This difficulty may be exacerbated by the illiquid nature of any non-qualifying assets that we may own. We may have to make investment decisions that we otherwise would not make absent REIT and Investment Company Act considerations.

Our rights and the rights of our shareholders to recover on claims against our directors and officers are limited, which could reduce our and our shareholders' recovery against them if they negligently cause us to incur losses.

The MGCL provides that a director has no liability in such capacity if he performs his duties in good faith, in a manner he reasonably believes to be in our best interests and with the care that an ordinarily prudent person in a like position would use under similar circumstances. A director who performs his or her duties in accordance with the foregoing standards should not be liable to us or any other person for failure to discharge his or her obligations as a director.

The Charter and Bylaws permit and require us, to the maximum extent permitted by Maryland law, to indemnify and, without requiring a preliminary determination of the ultimate entitlement to indemnification, pay or reimburse reasonable costs, fees and expenses in advance of final disposition of a proceeding to any individual who is a present or former director or officer and who is made or threatened to be made a party to, or witness in, the proceeding by reason of his or her service in that capacity or any individual who, while a director or officer and at our request, serves or has served as a director, officer, partner, trustee, member or manager of another corporation, REIT, limited liability company, partnership, joint venture, trust, employee benefit plan or other enterprise and who is made or threatened to be made a party to, or witness in, the proceeding by reason of his or her service in that capacity. With the approval of our Board, we may provide such indemnification and advance for expenses to any individual who served a predecessor of our Company in any of the capacities described above and any employee or agent of our Company or a predecessor of our Company, including our Manager and its affiliates. In addition to the indemnification provided by the Charter and Bylaws, we have entered into indemnification agreements to indemnify, and advance certain fees, costs and expenses to, our directors and officers, subject to certain standards to be met and certain other limitations and conditions as set forth in such indemnification agreements.

While we do not currently do so, we are permitted, to the fullest extent permitted by law, to purchase and maintain insurance on behalf of any of our directors, officers, employees and agents, including our Manager and its affiliates, against any liability asserted against such person. Alternatively, we may in the future establish a sinking fund to contribute a specified amount of cash on a monthly basis towards insuring such persons against liability. Any such insurance or sinking fund may result in us having to expend significant funds, which will reduce the available cash for distribution to our shareholders. Additionally, while we do not have directors and officers insurance, regardless of whether we have a sinking fund, we may also have to expend significant funds to cover our commitments to indemnify our directors and officers.

Risks Related to Our Relationship with Our Manager and its Affiliates

Our future success depends on our Manager and its key personnel and investment professionals. We may not find a suitable replacement for our Manager if the Management Agreement is terminated or if such key personnel or investment professionals leave the employment of our Manager or otherwise become unavailable to us.

We rely on the resources of our Manager to manage our day-to-day operations, as we do not separately employ any personnel. We rely completely on our Manager to provide us with investment advisory services and general management services. Each of our executive officers also serve as officers or employees of our Manager. Our Manager has significant discretion as to the implementation of our investment and operating policies and strategies. Accordingly, we believe that our success depends to a significant extent upon the efforts, experience, diligence, skill and network of business contacts of the officers, key personnel and investment professionals of our Manager as well as the information and deal flow generated by such individuals. The officers, key personnel and investment professionals of our Manager source, evaluate, negotiate, close and monitor our loans; therefore, our success depends on their continued service. The departure of any of the officers, key personnel and investment professionals of our Manager could have a material adverse effect on our business.

Our Manager is not obligated to dedicate any specific personnel exclusively to us. None of our officers are obligated to dedicate any specific portion of their time to our business. Each of them may have significant responsibilities for other investment vehicles managed by affiliates of our Manager. As a result, these individuals may not always be able to devote sufficient time to the management of our business. Further, when there are turbulent conditions in the real estate markets or distress in the credit markets, the attention of our Manager's personnel and our executive officers and the resources of our Manager may also be required by other investment vehicles managed by affiliates of our Manager.

In addition, we offer no assurance that our Manager will remain our manager or that we will continue to have access to our Manager's officers, key personnel and investment professionals due to the termination of the Management Agreement, our Manager being acquired, our Manager being internalized by another client of our Manager, or due to other circumstances. Currently, we are managed by our Board and its officers and by our Manager, as provided for under the Management Agreement. Currently, the Management Agreement automatically renews every year on July 31st for a one-year period, unless otherwise terminated. Furthermore, our Manager may decline to renew the Management Agreement with 180 days' written notice prior to the expiration of the renewal term. If the Management Agreement is terminated and we are unable to find a suitable replacement for our Manager, we may not be able to execute its investment strategy.

Our growth depends on the ability of our Manager to make loans on favorable terms that satisfy our investment strategy and otherwise generate attractive risk-adjusted returns initially and consistently from time to time.

Our ability to achieve our investment objectives depends on our ability to grow, which depends, in turn, on the management and investment teams of our Manager and their ability to identify and to make loans on favorable terms in accordance with our investment strategy as well as on our access to financing on acceptable terms. The demands on the time of the professional staff of our Manager will increase as our portfolio grows and the management of our existing portfolio may divert our Manager's attention from future potential loans or otherwise slow our rate of investment. Our Manager may be unable to successfully and efficiently integrate new loans into our existing portfolio or otherwise effectively manage our assets or our future growth effectively. We cannot assure you that our Manager will be able to hire, train, supervise, manage and retain new officers and employees to manage future growth effectively, and any such failure could have a material adverse effect on our business. The failure to consummate loans on advantageous terms without substantial expense or delay would impede our growth, would negatively affect our results of operations and our ability to generate cash flow and make distributions to our shareholders, and could cause the value of our common stock to decline.

There are various conflicts of interest in our relationship with our Manager that could result in decisions that are not in the best interests of our shareholders.

We are subject to conflicts of interest arising out of our relationship with our Manager and its affiliates. We are managed by our Manager and our executive officers are employees of our Manager or one or more of its affiliates. There is no guarantee that the policies and procedures adopted by us, the terms and conditions of the Management Agreement or the policies and procedures adopted by our Manager and its affiliates, will enable us to identify, adequately address or mitigate these conflicts of interest.

Some examples of conflicts of interest that may arise by virtue of our relationship with our Manager include:

Manager's advisory activities. While our Manager and its affiliates have agreed that for so long as our Manager is managing us, neither it nor any of its affiliates will sponsor or manage any other mortgage REIT that invests primarily in loans of the same kind as our Company, our Manager and its affiliates may otherwise manage other investment vehicles that have investment objectives that compete or overlap with, and may from time to time invest in, our target asset classes. This may apply to existing investment vehicles or investment vehicles that may be organized in the future. For example, our Manager and/or its affiliates (i) provide investment advisory and other management services to a recently formed investment vehicle focused on investing in operators and ancillary companies in the cannabis industry by providing debt and equity capital to such operators and companies and (ii) provide investment advisory and other management services to a recently formed investment vehicle focused on providing debt and equity capital to commercial real estate owners, operators and related companies.

Allocation of loans. Our Manager and its affiliates endeavor to allocate loan opportunities in a fair and equitable manner, subject to their internal policies. The internal policies of our Manager and its affiliates, which may be amended without our consent, are intended to enable us to share equitably with any other investment vehicles that are managed by our Manager or affiliates of our Manager. In general, loan opportunities are allocated taking into consideration various factors, including, among others, the relevant investment vehicles' available capital, their investment objectives or strategies, their risk profiles and their existing or prior positions in a borrower or particular loan, their potential conflicts of interest, the nature of the opportunity and market conditions, certain regulatory considerations as well as the rotation of loan opportunities. Nevertheless, it is possible that we may not be given the opportunity to participate in certain loans made by investment vehicles managed by our Manager or affiliates of our Manager. In addition, there may be conflicts in the allocation of loan opportunities among us and the investment vehicles managed by our Manager or affiliates of our Manager.

Co-investments. Other investment vehicles managed by our Manager or affiliates of our Manager may co-invest with us or hold positions in a loan where we have also invested, including by means of splitting commitments, participating in loans or other means of syndicating loans. Such loans may raise potential conflicts of interest between us and such other investment vehicles. To the extent such investment vehicles seek to acquire the same target assets as us, subject to the internal policies of our Manager and its affiliates described above, the scope of opportunities otherwise available to us may be adversely affected and/or reduced. In such circumstances, the size of the investment opportunity in loans otherwise available to us may be less than it would otherwise have been, and we may participate in such opportunities on different and potentially less favorable economic terms than such other parties if our Manager deems such participation as being otherwise in our best interests. Furthermore, when such other investment vehicles have interests or requirements that do not align with our interests, including differing liquidity needs or desired investment horizons, conflicts may arise in the manner in which any voting or control rights are exercised with respect to the relevant borrower, potentially resulting in an adverse impact on us. If we participate in a co-investment with an investment vehicle managed by our Manager or an affiliate of our Manager and such vehicle fails to fund a future advance on a loan, we may be required to, or we may elect to, cover such advance and invest additional funds. In addition, if we and such other investment vehicles invest in different classes or types of debt, equity or other investments relating to the same borrower, actions may be taken by such other investment vehicles that are adverse to our interests, including, but not limited to, during a work-out, restructuring or insolvency proceeding or similar matter occurring with respect to such loan. Subject to applicable internal policies of our Manager and its affiliates, our Manager and/or its affiliates may also from time to time serve as administrative agent to all lenders of such co-invested loans. In such a case, there may arise potential conflicts of interest between us, such other investment vehicles and/or such affiliated administrative agent.

Loans in which other investment vehicles managed by our Manager or affiliates of our Manager hold different loans . We may invest in, acquire, sell assets to or provide financing to investment vehicles managed by our Manager or affiliates of our Manager and their borrowers or purchase assets from, sell assets to, or arrange financing from any such investment vehicles and their borrowers. Any such transactions will require approval by a majority of our independent directors. There can be no assurance that any procedural protections will be sufficient to ensure that these transactions will be made on terms that will be at least as favorable to us as those that would have been obtained in an arm's-length transaction.

Fees and expenses . We will be responsible for certain fees and expenses as determined by our Manager, including due diligence costs, legal, accounting and financial advisor fees and related costs, incurred in connection with evaluating and consummating loan opportunities, regardless of whether such loans are ultimately consummated by the parties thereto.

The ability of our Manager and its officers and employees to engage in other business activities may reduce the time our Manager spends managing our business and may result in certain conflicts of interest.

Certain of our officers and directors and the officers and other personnel of our Manager also serve or may serve as officers, directors or partners of certain affiliates of our Manager, as well as investment vehicles sponsored by such affiliates, including investment vehicles or managed accounts not yet established, whether managed or sponsored by affiliates or our Manager. Accordingly, the ability of our Manager and its officers and employees to engage in other business activities may reduce the time our Manager spends managing our business. These activities could be viewed as creating a conflict of interest insofar as the time and effort of the professional staff of our Manager and its officers and employees will not be devoted exclusively to our business; instead it will be allocated between our business and the management of these other investment vehicles.

In the course of our investing activities, we will pay Base Management Fees to our Manager and will reimburse our Manager for certain expenses it incurs. As a result, investors in our common stock will invest on a "gross" basis and receive any distributions on a "net" basis after expenses, resulting in, among other things, a lower rate of return than one might achieve through direct loans. As a result of this arrangement, our Manager's interests may be less aligned with our interests.

Our Management Agreement with our Manager was not negotiated on an arm's-length basis and may not be as favorable to us as if they had been negotiated with an unaffiliated third party, and the manner of determining the Base Management Fees may not provide sufficient incentive to our Manager to maximize risk-adjusted returns for our portfolio since it is based on the book value of our equity per annum and not on our performance.

We rely completely on our Manager to provide us with investment advisory services and general management services. Our executive officers also serve as officers or employees of our Manager. Our Management Agreement was negotiated between related parties and their terms, including fees payable, may not be as favorable to us as if they had been negotiated with an unaffiliated third party.

We pay our Manager substantial Base Management Fees regardless of the performance of our portfolio. Pursuant to the terms of our Management Agreement, our Manager receives Base Management Fees that are calculated and payable quarterly in arrears in cash, in an amount equal to 0.375% of our Equity (as defined below), subject to certain adjustments, less 50% of the aggregate amount of any Outside Fees, including any agency fees relating to our loans, but excluding the Incentive Compensation and any diligence fees paid to and earned by our Manager and paid by third parties in connection with our Manager's due diligence of potential loans. Such Base Management Fees will be calculated and payable quarterly in arrears in cash, subject to certain adjustments. Our Manager's entitlement to the Base Management Fees, which are not based upon performance metrics or goals, might reduce its incentive to devote its time and effort to seeking loans that provide attractive risk-adjusted returns for our portfolio. Further, the Base Management Fee structure gives our Manager the incentive to maximize the book value of our equity raised by the issuance of new equity securities or the retention of existing equity value, regardless of the effect of these actions on existing shareholders. In other words, the Base Management Fee structure will reward our Manager primarily based on the size of our equity raised and not necessarily on our financial returns to shareholders. This in turn could hurt both our ability to make distributions to our shareholders and the market price of our common stock.

Currently, the Management Agreement automatically renews every year on July 31st for a one-year period, unless otherwise terminated. Furthermore, our Manager may decline to renew either Management Agreement with 180 days' written notice prior to the expiration of the renewal term. If our Management Agreement is terminated and we are unable to find a suitable replacement for our Manager, we may not be able to continue to execute our investment strategy.

Terminating our Management Agreement for unsatisfactory performance of our Manager or electing not to renew the Management Agreement may be difficult and terminating our Management Agreement in certain circumstances requires payment of a substantial termination fee.

Terminating our Management Agreement without cause is difficult and costly. Our independent directors and the Audit and Valuation Committee of our Board will review our Manager's performance and the applicable Base Management Fees and Incentive Compensation at least annually. Upon 180 days' written notice prior to the expiration of any renewal term, our Management Agreement may be terminated upon the affirmative vote of at least two-thirds of our independent directors, based upon unsatisfactory performance by our Manager that is materially detrimental to us. The Management Agreement provides that upon any termination as described in the foregoing, we will pay our Manager a Termination Fee equal to three times the sum of the annual Base Management Fees and annual Incentive Compensation received from us during the 12-month period immediately preceding the most recently completed fiscal quarter prior to such termination. This provision increases the cost to us of terminating the Management Agreement and adversely affects our ability to terminate our Manager without cause.

Even if we terminate our Management Agreement for cause, we may be required to continue to retain our Manager for 30 days following the occurrence of events giving rise to a for-cause termination.

While we have the right to terminate our Management Agreement for cause without paying a Termination Fee, we must provide 30 days' notice to our Manager in advance of any such termination, including in the event of our Manager's fraud, misappropriation of funds, embezzlement or bad faith, willful misconduct, gross negligence or reckless disregard in the performance of its duties. As a result, we would be forced to continue to pay our Manager during such 30-day period and we may not be able to find a suitable replacement for our Manager during this period or, if we were able to find a suitable replacement, we may be required to compensate the new manager while continuing to pay our terminated Manager during this 30-day period, unless our Manager waives the notice requirement. This could have an adverse effect on our business and operations, which could adversely affect our operating results and our ability to make distributions to our shareholders.

The Incentive Compensation payable to our Manager under the Management Agreement may cause our Manager to select riskier loans to increase its Incentive Compensation.

In addition to the Base Management Fees, our Manager is entitled to receive Incentive Compensation under our Management Agreement. Under our Management Agreement, we pay Incentive Compensation to our Manager based upon our achievement of targeted levels of Core Earnings. "Core Earnings" is generally defined in our Management Agreement as, for a given period, the net income (loss) computed in accordance with GAAP, excluding (i) non-cash equity compensation expense, (ii) the Incentive Compensation, (iii) depreciation and amortization, (iv) any unrealized gains, losses or other non-cash items recorded in net income (loss) for the period, regardless of whether such items are included in other comprehensive income or loss, or in net income (loss); provided that Core Earnings does not exclude, in the case of loans with a deferred interest feature (such as OID, debt instruments with PIK interest and zero coupon securities), accrued income that we have not yet received in cash, and (v) one-time events pursuant to changes in GAAP and certain non-cash charges after discussions between our Manager and our independent directors and after approval by a majority of such independent directors.

In evaluating loans and other management strategies, the opportunity to earn Incentive Compensation based on Core Earnings and realized profits, as applicable, may lead our Manager to place undue emphasis on the maximization of Core Earnings and realized profits at the expense of other criteria, such as preservation of capital, in order to achieve higher Incentive Compensation. Loans with higher yield potential are generally riskier or more speculative. This could result in increased risk to the value of our portfolio.

Our Manager manages our portfolio in accordance with very broad investment guidelines and our Board does not approve each loan and financing decision made by our Manager, which may result in us making riskier loans than those currently comprising our Existing Portfolio.

While our Board periodically reviews our portfolios, it does not review all proposed investments. In addition, in conducting periodic reviews, such directors may rely primarily on information provided to them by our Manager. Our Investment Guidelines may be changed from time to time upon recommendation by our Manager and approval by a majority of our Board (which must include a majority of the independent directors of our Board) and our Manager. Furthermore, our Manager may use complex strategies and loans entered into by our Manager that may be difficult or impossible to unwind by the time they are reviewed by our Board. Our Manager has great latitude in determining the types of loans that are proper for us, which could result in loan returns that are substantially below expectations or that result in losses, which would materially and adversely affect our business operations and results. In addition, our Manager is not subject to any limits or proportions with respect to the mix of target investments that we make or that we may in the future acquire other than as necessary to maintain our exemption from registration under the Investment Company Act and our qualification as a REIT. Decisions made and loans entered into by our Manager may not fully reflect your best interests.

Our Manager may change its investment process, or elect not to follow it, without the consent of our shareholders and at any time, which may adversely affect our loans.

Our Manager may change its investment process without the consent of our shareholders and at any time. In addition, there can be no assurance that our Manager will follow its investment process in relation to the identification and underwriting of prospective loans. Changes in our Manager's investment process may result in inferior, among other things, due diligence and underwriting standards, which may adversely affect the performance of our portfolio.

We do not have a policy that expressly prohibits our directors, managers, officers, shareholders or affiliates, as applicable, from engaging for their own account in business activities of the types conducted by us.

We do not have a policy that expressly prohibits our directors, officers, shareholders or affiliates from engaging for their own account in business activities of the types conducted by us. For example, certain of our officers and directors and employees of our Manager also have a relationship with our borrowers or other clients as part of their outside business activities. Additionally, (i) some of our officers and directors are equity holders of AFC Warehouse, which invested in the equity of certain of our borrowers, (ii) Mr. Kalikow, a former director and officer, controls a recently formed investment vehicle focused on acquiring, among other things, equity securities of companies in the cannabis industry, which may from time to time include our existing or target borrowers and (iii) Mr. Tannenbaum, our Executive Chairman and Chief Investment Officer, and Mrs. Tannenbaum, our President, are the ultimate beneficial owners of FLH, and collectively hold over a majority of the ownership of the external manager of AFCIF, and FLH and AFCIF each may lend to our borrowers, and (iv) Mr. and Mrs. Tannenbaum own and control AFC Agent, an entity that provides services as an administrative agent to lenders under certain credit facilities, including credit facilities in which we are currently acting, or may in the future act as lenders. However, our conflicts of interest policies prohibit our directors and officers as well as employees of our Manager from engaging in any transaction that involves a potential or actual conflict of interest with us without the approval of the Audit and Valuation Committee of our Board. In addition, our Management Agreement has limited restrictions on our Manager's and its affiliates' respective ability to engage in additional management or loan opportunities, which could result in our Manager or its affiliates engaging in management and investment activities that compete with us, and our conflict of interest policies acknowledge that such activities shall not be deemed a conflict of interest.

Our Manager is subject to extensive regulation as an investment adviser, which could adversely affect its ability to manage our business.

Our Manager is currently an investment adviser under the Advisers Act. Our Manager and its affiliates, as applicable, are subject to regulation as an investment adviser by various regulatory authorities that are charged with protecting the interests of its clients. Instances of criminal activity and fraud by participants in the investment management industry and disclosures of trading and other abuses by participants in the financial services industry have led the United States Government and regulators to increase the rules and regulations governing, and oversight of, the United States financial system. This activity resulted in changes to the laws and regulations governing the investment management industry and more aggressive enforcement of the existing laws and regulations. Our Manager could be subject to civil liability, criminal liability, or sanction, including revocation of its registration as an investment adviser (if relevant), revocation of the licenses of its employees, censures, fines, or temporary suspension or permanent bar from conducting business, if it is found to have violated any of these laws or regulations. Any such liability or sanction could adversely affect the ability of our Manager and any of its applicable affiliates to manage their respective business. Additionally, our Manager and any of its applicable affiliates must continually address conflicts between their respective interests and those of their respective clients, including us. In addition, the SEC and other regulators have increased their scrutiny of potential conflicts of interest. Our Manager has procedures and controls that we believe are reasonably designed to address these issues. However, appropriately dealing with conflicts of interest is complex and difficult and if our Manager or any of its applicable affiliates fail, or appears to fail, to deal appropriately with conflicts of interest, such entity could face litigation or regulatory proceedings or penalties, any of which could adversely affect such entity's ability to manage our business.

While we believe that we benefit from our Manager's key personnel and investment professionals expertise and experience, (i) we may not replicate the historical performance of our Manager's key personnel and investment professionals or that of our Manager's affiliates, (ii) we and our Manager have not previously managed a REIT vehicle or any investment vehicle focused on providing loans for cannabis industry operators and (iii) we can provide no assurance that, in certain circumstances, their prior experience will not cause reputational harm for us.

We believe that we will benefit from the extensive and diverse expertise and significant financing industry experience of the key personnel and investment professionals of our Manager and its affiliates. However, investors should understand that we and our Manager are recently formed entities that have limited prior operating history upon which to evaluate our and our Manager's likely performance and we and our Manager have not previously managed a REIT vehicle or any investment vehicle focused on providing loans for cannabis industry operators.

Additionally, in connection with their prior experience, certain of our Manager's key personnel and its affiliates and our officers and directors have been named defendants in litigation or other legal proceedings involving their managed entities. For example, in 2015, Fifth Street Finance Corporation ("FSC") and Fifth Street Asset Management ("Fifth Street") and certain officers and directors of FSC and Fifth Street, including Mr. Tannenbaum and Alexander C. Frank, one of our directors, were named as defendants in actions alleging violations of Sections 10(b) and 20(a) of the Exchange Act regarding statements about the value of FSC's assets and Fifth Street and certain officers and directors, including Mr. Tannenbaum and Mr. Frank, were named as defendants in actions alleging that the defendants breached their fiduciary duties by causing FSC to enter into an unfair Investment Advisory Agreement with Fifth Street and engaging in a scheme designed to artificially inflate FSC's assets. In addition, in 2018, Fifth Street Management, LLC ("FSM"), during a time in which Mr. Tannenbaum was an affiliate, was subject to a cease and desist order from the SEC (the "Order") relating to allegations of improper allocation of expenses to clients and failures relating to its review of a client's valuation model. The Order was limited to FSM and no individual or FSM affiliated entity was subject to the Order at any time. Additionally, each of these matters have been resolved with no admission of wrongdoing by any party and the dismissals of all claims against each of the named individuals but we cannot provide assurance that these prior legal proceedings or future legal proceedings involving us, our Manager, our Manager's key personnel or investment professionals or its affiliates or our officers or directors will not cause reputational harm for us.

In addition to other analytical tools, our Manager may utilize financial models to evaluate loan opportunities, the accuracy and effectiveness of which cannot be guaranteed.

In addition to other analytical tools, our Manager may utilize financial models to evaluate loan opportunities, the accuracy and effectiveness of which cannot be guaranteed. In all cases, financial models are only estimates of future results which are based upon assumptions made at the time that the projections are developed. There can be no assurance that our Manager's projected results will be attained and actual results may vary significantly from the projections. General economic and industry-specific conditions, which are not predictable, can have an adverse impact on the reliability of projections.

Our Manager's and its affiliates' liability is limited under the Management Agreement, and we have agreed to indemnify our Manager against certain liabilities. As a result, we could experience poor performance or losses for which our Manager and its affiliates would not be liable.

Pursuant to the Management Agreement, our Manager does not assume any responsibility other than to render the services called for thereunder in good faith and will not be responsible for any action of our Board in following or declining to follow its advice or recommendations. Under the terms of the Management Agreement, our Manager, its affiliates, and any of their respective members, shareholders, managers, partners, trustees, personnel, officers, directors, employees, consultants and any person providing sub-advisory services to our Manager (collectively, the "Manager Parties") will not be liable to us for acts or omissions performed in accordance with and pursuant to the Management Agreement, except by reason of acts constituting bad faith, willful misconduct, gross negligence, or reckless disregard of their duties under the relevant Management Agreement. In addition, we have agreed to indemnify the Manager Parties with respect to all losses, damages, liabilities, demands, charges and claims of any nature whatsoever, and any and all expenses, costs and fees related thereto, arising from acts or omissions of the Manager Parties not constituting bad faith, willful misconduct, gross negligence, or reckless disregard of duties, performed in good faith in accordance with and pursuant to the Management Agreement. We have also entered into indemnification agreements with the members of the Investment Committee of our Manager to indemnify and advance certain fees, costs and expenses to such individuals, subject to certain standards to be met and certain other limitations and conditions as set forth in such indemnification agreements. These protections may lead our Manager to act in a riskier manner when acting on our behalf than it would when acting for its own account.

Risks Related to Our Taxation as a REIT

Failure to qualify as a REIT would cause us to be taxed as a regular corporation, which would substantially reduce funds available for distributions to our shareholders.

We intend to operate in a manner so as to continue to qualify as a REIT for U.S. federal income tax purposes. We believe that we have qualified, and our organization and current and proposed method of operation will enable us to continue to qualify as a REIT. However, no assurances can be given that our beliefs or expectations will be fulfilled. This is because qualification as a REIT involves the application of highly technical and complex provisions of the Code, and regulations promulgated by the U.S. Treasury Department thereunder ("Treasury Regulations") as to which there are only limited judicial and administrative interpretations and involves the determination of facts and circumstances not entirely within our control. In addition, while we intend to take the position that we and certain of our affiliates are treated as separate entities for purposes of determining whether we qualify as a REIT, there can be no guarantee that the IRS will agree with our position. If we and certain of our affiliates are treated as the same entity for this purpose, we may not qualify as a REIT. Furthermore, future legislation, new regulations, administrative interpretations or court decisions may significantly change the U.S. tax laws or the application of the U.S. tax laws with respect to qualification as a REIT for federal income tax purposes or the federal income tax consequences of such qualification.

If we fail to qualify as a REIT in any taxable year, we will face serious tax consequences that will substantially reduce the funds available for distributions to our shareholders because:

- we would not be allowed a deduction for distributions paid to shareholders in computing our taxable income and would be subject to U.S. federal income tax at regular corporate rates;
- we could be subject to increased state and local taxes; and
- unless we are entitled to relief under statutory provisions, we would not be able to re-elect to be taxed as a REIT for four taxable years following the year in which we were disqualified.

In addition, if we fail to qualify as a REIT, we will no longer be required to make distributions to remain qualified as a REIT for U.S. federal income tax purposes. As a result of all these factors, our failure to qualify as a REIT could impair our ability to expand our business and raise capital, and it could adversely affect the value of our common stock.

Even if we qualify as a REIT, we may face other tax liabilities that reduce our cash flows.

Even if we qualify for taxation as a REIT, we may be subject to certain federal, state and local taxes on our income and assets, including taxes on any undistributed income, tax on income from some activities conducted as a result of a foreclosure, and state or local income, property and transfer taxes. In addition, in order to meet the REIT qualification requirements or to avert the imposition of a 100% tax that applies to certain gains derived by a REIT from dealer property or inventory, we currently hold certain assets through TRS1, a taxable REIT subsidiary, and may hold additional assets through TRS1 or one or more to-be-formed taxable REIT subsidiaries that will be subject to corporate-level income tax at regular rates. In addition, if we lend money to a taxable REIT subsidiary (including loans to partnerships or limited liability companies in which a taxable REIT subsidiary owns an interest), the taxable REIT subsidiary may be unable to deduct all or a portion of the interest paid to us, which could result in an increased corporate-level tax liability. Any of these taxes would decrease cash available for distribution to our shareholders.

REIT distribution requirements could adversely affect our ability to execute our business plan and liquidity and may force us to borrow funds during unfavorable market conditions.

In order to maintain our REIT status and to meet the REIT distribution requirements, we may need to borrow funds on a short-term basis or sell assets, even if the then-prevailing market conditions are not favorable for these borrowings or sales. In addition, we may need to reserve cash to satisfy our REIT distribution requirements, even though attractive lending opportunities may be available. To qualify as a REIT, we must distribute to our shareholders at least 90% of our net taxable income each year, without regard to the deduction for dividends paid and excluding capital gains and certain non-cash income. In addition, we will be subject to corporate income tax to the extent we distribute less than 100% of our taxable income, including any net capital gain. We intend to make distributions to our shareholders to comply with the requirements of the Code for REITs and to minimize or eliminate our corporate income tax obligation to the extent consistent with our business objectives. Our cash flows from operations may be insufficient to fund required distributions as a result of differences in timing between the actual receipt of income and the recognition of income for U.S. federal income tax purposes, or the effect of non-deductible capital expenditures, the creation of reserves or required debt service or amortization payments. In addition, if the IRS were to disallow certain of our deductions, such as management fees, depreciation or interest expense, by alleging that we, through our business operations and/or loan agreements with state-licensed cannabis borrowers, are subject to Section 280E of the Code or otherwise, we could be unable to meet the distribution requirements and would fail to qualify as a REIT. Likewise, any governmental fine on us would not be deductible, and the inability to deduct such fines could cause us to be unable to satisfy the distribution requirement.

The insufficiency of our cash flows to cover our distribution requirements could have an adverse impact on our ability to raise short- and long-term debt or sell equity securities in order to fund distributions required to maintain our REIT status. In addition, we will be subject to a 4% nondeductible excise tax on the amount, if any, by which distributions paid by us in any calendar year are less than the sum of 85% of our ordinary income, 95% of our capital gain net income and 100% of our undistributed income from prior years. To address and/or mitigate some of these issues, we may make taxable distributions that are in part paid in cash and in part paid in our equity. In such cases, our shareholders may have tax liabilities from such distributions in excess of the cash they receive. The treatment of such taxable stock distributions is not entirely clear, and it is possible the taxable stock distribution will not count towards our distribution requirement, in which case adverse consequences could apply.

Complying with REIT requirements may cause us to forego otherwise attractive opportunities or to liquidate otherwise attractive loans.

To qualify as a REIT for U.S. federal income tax purposes, we must continually satisfy tests concerning, among other things, the sources of our income, the nature and diversification of our assets and the amounts we distribute to our shareholders. In order to meet these tests, we may be required to forego loans that we might otherwise make or liquidate loans we might otherwise continue to hold. Thus, compliance with the REIT requirements may hinder our performance by limiting our ability to make and/or maintain ownership of certain otherwise attractive loans.

Temporary investment of available capital in short-term securities and income from such investment generally will allow us to satisfy various REIT income and asset qualifications, but only during the one-year period beginning on the date we receive such capital. If we are unable to invest a sufficient amount of such capital in qualifying real estate assets within such one-year period, we could fail to satisfy the gross income tests and/or we could be limited to investing all or a portion of any remaining funds in cash or cash equivalents. If we fail to satisfy such income test, unless we are entitled to relief under certain provisions of the Code, we could fail to qualify as a REIT.

The tax on prohibited transactions will limit our ability to engage in certain loans involving the sale or other disposition of property or that would otherwise subject us to a 100% penalty tax.

A REIT's net income from prohibited transactions is subject to a 100% tax. In general, prohibited transactions are sales or other dispositions of property, other than foreclosure property, held as inventory or primarily for sale to customers in the ordinary course of business. Although we do not intend to hold a significant amount of assets as inventory or primarily for sale to customers in the ordinary course of our business, the characterization of an asset sale as a prohibited transaction depends on the particular facts and circumstances. The Code provides a safe harbor that, if met, allows a REIT to avoid being treated as engaged in a prohibited transaction. We may sell certain assets in transactions that do not meet all of the requirements of such safe harbor if we believe the transaction would nevertheless not be a prohibited transaction based on an analysis of all of the relevant facts and circumstances. If the IRS were to successfully argue that such a sale was in fact a prohibited transaction, we would be subject to a 100% penalty tax with respect to such sale. In addition, in order to avoid the prohibited transactions tax, we may choose not to engage in certain sales, even though the sales might otherwise be beneficial to us.

Legislative, regulatory or administrative tax changes related to REITs could materially and adversely affect our business.

At any time, the U.S. federal income tax laws or Treasury Regulations governing REITs, or the administrative interpretations of those laws or regulations, may be changed, possibly with retroactive effect. We cannot predict if or when any new U.S. federal income tax law, regulation or administrative interpretation, or any amendment to any existing U.S. federal income tax law, regulation or administrative interpretation, will be adopted, promulgated or become effective or whether any such law, regulation or interpretation may take effect retroactively. We and our shareholders could be adversely affected by any such change in, or any new, U.S. federal income tax law, regulation or administrative interpretation.

Dividends payable by REITs generally do not qualify for reduced tax rates applicable to qualified dividend income.

The maximum U.S. federal income tax rate for certain qualified dividends payable to individual U.S. shareholders is 20%. Dividends payable by REITs, however, are generally not qualified dividends and therefore are not eligible for taxation at the reduced rates. However, to the extent such dividends are attributable to certain dividends that we receive from a taxable REIT subsidiary or to income from a prior year that was retained by us and subject to corporate tax, such dividends generally will be eligible for the reduced rates that apply to qualified dividend income. The more favorable rates applicable to regular corporate dividends could cause investors who are individuals to perceive investments in REITs to be relatively less attractive than investments in the stocks of non-REIT corporations that pay dividends, which could adversely affect the value of the stock of REITs, including our equity. However, through the 2025 tax year, individual U.S. shareholders may be entitled to claim a deduction in determining their taxable income of 20% of ordinary REIT dividends (dividends other than capital gain dividends and dividends attributable to qualified dividend income received by us, if any), which temporarily reduces the effective tax rate on these dividends to a maximum federal income tax rate of 29.6% for those years. If we fail to qualify as a REIT, such dividends will no longer be ordinary REIT dividends, and shareholders may not claim this deduction with respect to dividends paid by us. Shareholders are urged to consult tax advisers regarding the effect of this change on the effective tax rate with respect to REIT dividends.

If we were considered to have actually or constructively paid a “preferential dividend” to certain of our shareholders, our status as a REIT could be adversely affected.

In order to qualify as a REIT, we must annually distribute to our shareholders at least 90% of our REIT taxable income, determined without regard to the deduction for dividends paid and excluding net capital gain and certain non-cash income. In order for distributions to be counted as satisfying the annual distribution requirements for REITs, and to provide us with a REIT-level tax deduction, the distributions must not be “preferential dividends,” unless we are a “publicly offered REIT,” which we became upon our IPO. A dividend is not a preferential dividend if the distribution is pro rata among all outstanding shares of stock within a particular class, and in accordance with the preferences among different classes of stock as set forth in our organizational documents. Currently, there is uncertainty as to the IRS’s position regarding whether certain arrangements that REITs have with their shareholders could give rise to the inadvertent payment of a preferential dividend (e.g., the pricing methodology for stock purchased under a distribution reinvestment program inadvertently causing a greater than 5% discount on the price of such stock purchased). There is no de minimis exception with respect to preferential dividends; therefore, if the IRS were to take the position that we inadvertently paid a preferential dividend prior to our IPO, we may be deemed to have failed the 90% distribution test, and our status as a REIT could be terminated for the year in which such determination is made if we were unable to cure such failure. While we believe that our operations prior to the IPO had been structured in such a manner that we will not be treated as inadvertently having paid preferential dividends, we can provide no assurance to this effect.

The ability of our Board to revoke our REIT election without shareholder approval may cause adverse consequences to our shareholders.

The Charter provides that our Board may revoke or otherwise terminate our REIT election, without the approval of our shareholders, if our Board determines that it is no longer in our best interest to attempt to, or continue to, qualify as a REIT. If we cease to qualify as a REIT, we would become subject to U.S. federal income tax on our net taxable income, and we generally would no longer be required to distribute any of our net taxable income to our shareholders, which may have adverse consequences on the total return to our shareholders.

Complying with REIT requirements may limit our ability to hedge our operational risks effectively and may cause us to incur tax liabilities.

The REIT provisions of the Code may limit our ability to hedge risks relating to our operations. Any income from a hedging transaction that we enter into to manage risk of interest rate changes, price changes or currency fluctuations with respect to borrowings made or to be made, if properly identified under applicable Treasury Regulations, does not constitute “gross income” for purposes of the 75% or 95% gross income tests. To the extent that we enter into other types of hedging transactions, the income from those transactions will likely be treated as non-qualifying income for purposes of both of the gross income tests.

To the extent the business interest deductions of our subsidiaries, if any, are deferred or disallowed, our taxable income may exceed our cash available for distributions to shareholders.

Code Section 163(j) limits the deductibility of “business interest” for both individuals and corporations. Certain real property trades or businesses are permitted to elect out of this limitation, but we do not expect it to be available to us. To the extent our interest deductions or those of our subsidiaries, if any, are deferred or disallowed under Code Section 163(j) or any other provision of law, our taxable income may exceed our cash available for distribution to our shareholders. As a result, there is a risk that we may have taxable income in excess of cash available for distribution. In that event, we may need to borrow funds or take other action to satisfy the REIT distribution requirements for the taxable year in which this “phantom income” is recognized.

Risk Related to Ownership of Our Common Stock

The market price for our common stock may be volatile, which could contribute to the loss of all or part of your investment.

The trading price of our common stock is likely to be highly volatile and could be subject to wide fluctuations in response to various factors, some of which are beyond our control. Some of the factors that could negatively affect or result in fluctuations in the market price of our common stock include:

- our actual or projected operating results, financial condition, cash flows and liquidity or changes in business strategy or prospects;

- changes in governmental policies, regulations or laws;
- loss of a major funding source or inability to obtain new favorable funding sources in the future;
- equity issuances by us, or share resales by our shareholders, or the perception that such issuances or resales may occur;
- actual, anticipated or perceived accounting or internal control problems;
- publication of research reports about us, the real estate industry or the cannabis industry;
- our value of the properties securing our loans;
- changes in market valuations of similar companies;
- adverse market reaction to any increased indebtedness we may incur in the future;
- additions to or departures of the executive officers or key personnel supporting or assisting us from our Manager or its affiliates, including our Manager's investment professionals;
- speculation in the press or investment community about us or other similar companies;
- our failure to meet, or the lowering of, our earnings estimates or those of any securities analysts;
- increases in market interest rates, which may lead investors to demand a higher distribution yield for our common stock (if we have begun to make distributions to our shareholders) and which could cause the cost of our interest expenses on our debt to increase;
- failure to qualify or maintain our qualification as a REIT or exemption from the Investment Company Act;
- price and volume fluctuations in the stock market generally; and
- general market and economic conditions, including the state of the credit and capital markets.

Any of the factors listed above could materially adversely affect your investment in our common stock, and our common stock may trade at prices significantly below the public offering price, which could contribute to a loss of all or part of your investment. In such circumstances the trading price of our common stock may not recover and may experience a further decline.

In addition, broad market and industry factors could materially adversely affect the market price of our common stock, irrespective of our operating performance. The stock market in general, and Nasdaq and the market for cannabis-related companies and REITs have experienced extreme price and volume fluctuations that have often been unrelated or disproportionate to the operating performance of the particular companies affected. The trading prices and valuations of these stocks, and of ours, may not be predictable. A loss of investor confidence in the market for finance companies or for those companies in the cannabis industry or the stocks of other companies which investors perceive to be similar to us, the opportunities in the finance or cannabis market or the stock market in general, could depress our stock price regardless of our business, financial condition, results of operations or growth prospects.

The value of our equity securities could be materially and adversely affected by our level of cash distributions.

The value of the equity securities of a company whose principal business is similar to ours is based primarily upon investors' perception of its growth potential and its current and potential future cash distributions, whether from operations, sales or refinancings, and is secondarily based upon the market value of its underlying assets. For that reason, our equity may be valued at prices that are higher or lower than our net asset value per share. To the extent we retain operating cash flow for investment purposes, working capital reserves or other purposes, these retained funds, while increasing the value of our underlying assets, may not correspondingly increase the price at which our equity could trade. Our failure to meet investors' expectations with regard to future earnings and cash distributions likely would materially and adversely affect the valuation of our equity.

Future offerings of debt securities, which would rank senior to our common stock upon a bankruptcy liquidation, and future offerings of equity securities that may be senior to our common stock for the purposes of dividend and liquidating distributions, may adversely affect the value of our capital stock.

In the future, we intend to attempt to increase our capital resources by making offerings of debt or equity securities. As the cannabis industry continues to evolve and to the extent that additional states legalize cannabis, the demand for capital continues to increase as operators seek to enter and build out new markets. We expect the principal amount of the loans we originate to increase and that we will need to raise additional equity and/or debt funds to increase our liquidity in the near future. Upon bankruptcy or liquidation, holders of our debt securities, lenders with respect to any of our borrowings and holders of our preferred stock, if any, will receive a distribution of our available assets prior to the holders of our common stock. Equity offerings by us may dilute the holdings of our existing shareholders or reduce the valuation of our common stock. Our decision to issue securities in any future offering will depend on market conditions and other factors beyond our control.

We may in the future pay distributions from sources other than our cash flow from operations, including borrowings, offering proceeds or the sale of assets, which means we will have less funds available for investments or less income-producing assets and your overall return may be reduced.

We may in the future pay distributions from sources other than from our cash flow from operations. We intend to fund the payment of regular distributions to our shareholders entirely from cash flow from our operations. However, we may from time to time not generate sufficient cash flow from operations to fully fund distributions to shareholders. Therefore, if we choose to pay a distribution, we may choose to use cash flows from financing activities, including borrowings (including borrowings secured by our assets) and net proceeds of this or a prior offering, from the sale of assets or from other sources to fund distributions to our shareholders.

To the extent that we fund distributions from sources other than cash flows from operations, including borrowings, offering proceeds or proceeds from asset sales, the value of your investment will decline, and such distributions may constitute a return of capital and we may have fewer funds available for the funding of loans or less income-producing assets and your overall return may be reduced. Further, to the extent distributions exceed our earnings and profits, a shareholder's basis in our stock will be reduced and, to the extent distributions exceed a shareholder's basis, the shareholder will be required to recognize capital gain.

There is a risk that shareholders may not receive distributions or that such dividends may not grow over time.

We intend to make regular quarterly distributions to our shareholders, consistent with our intention to qualify as a REIT for U.S. federal income tax purposes. However, any future determination to actually pay dividends will be at the discretion of our Board, subject to compliance with applicable law and any contractual provisions, including under agreements for indebtedness, that restrict or limit our ability to pay dividends, and will depend upon, among other factors, our results of operations, financial condition, earnings, capital requirements and other factors that our Board deems relevant. We therefore cannot assure our shareholders that we will achieve investment results and other circumstances that will allow us to make a specified level of cash distributions or year-to-year increases in cash distributions.

As one of our significant shareholders and a significant beneficial owner of our Manager, Leonard M. Tannenbaum, can exert significant influence over our corporate actions and important corporate matters.

Our founder, Chief Investment Officer and Executive Chairman, Leonard M. Tannenbaum, beneficially owned approximately 25.6% of our outstanding equity as of March 1, 2024. Currently, Mr. Tannenbaum owns 3,744,638 shares of our common stock and has been granted options to purchase up to 1,906,958 shares of our common stock, which are fully vested and exercisable. Mr. Tannenbaum also owns 75% of the outstanding equity of the Parent Manager. Similarly, Robyn Tannenbaum, our President, Mr. Berman, a member of our Investment Committee, and Mr. Neville, our Chief Executive Officer, currently own 10.0%, 3.0% and 1.6%, respectively, of the Parent Manager.

Mr. Tannenbaum and, to a lesser extent, Mrs. Tannenbaum, could therefore exert substantial influence over our corporate matters, such as electing directors and approving material mergers, acquisitions, strategic partnerships or other business combination transactions, as applicable. This concentration of ownership may discourage, delay or prevent a change in control which could have the dual effect of depriving our shareholders from an opportunity to receive a premium for their equity as part of a sale of AFC Gamma, Inc. and otherwise reducing the price of such equity.

We are an “emerging growth company” and a “smaller reporting company” and we cannot be certain if the reduced disclosure requirements applicable to emerging growth companies and smaller reporting companies will make shares of our common stock less attractive to investors.

We are an “emerging growth company,” as defined in the Jumpstart Our Business Startups Act (“JOBS Act”), and we are eligible to take advantage of certain exemptions from various reporting requirements that are applicable to other public companies that are not “emerging growth companies” including, but not limited to, not being required to comply with the auditor attestation requirements of Section 404 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act, reduced disclosure obligations regarding executive compensation in our periodic reports and proxy statements, and exemptions from the requirements of holding a non-binding advisory vote on executive compensation and shareholder approval of any golden parachute payments not previously approved. In addition, Section 107 of the JOBS Act also provides that an “emerging growth company” can take advantage of the extended transition period provided in Section 7(a)(2)(B) of the Securities Act for complying with new or revised accounting standards. In other words, an “emerging growth company” can delay the adoption of certain accounting standards until those standards would otherwise apply to private companies. We have elected to take advantage of the extended transition period to comply with new or revised accounting standards and to adopt certain of the reduced disclosure requirements available to emerging growth companies. As a result of the accounting standards election, we will not be subject to the same implementation timing for new or revised accounting standards as other public companies that are not emerging growth companies which may make comparison of our financials to those of other public companies more difficult.

We could remain an “emerging growth company” for up to five years from our initial public offering, or until the earliest of (i) the last day of the first fiscal year in which our annual gross revenues exceed \$1.235 billion, (ii) the date that we become a “large accelerated filer” as defined in Rule 12b-2 under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended, which would occur if the market value of our common stock that is held by non-affiliates exceeds \$700.0 million as of the last business day of our most recently completed second fiscal quarter, or (iii) the date on which we have issued more than \$1.0 billion in non-convertible debt during the preceding three-year period.

Similarly, as a “smaller reporting company” under federal securities laws, we may take advantage of certain exemptions from various reporting requirements that are applicable to other public companies that are not smaller reporting companies, including, but not limited to, reduced disclosure obligations regarding executive compensation in our periodic reports and proxy statements. We may be a smaller reporting company even after we are no longer an emerging growth company.

We cannot predict if investors will find our common stock less attractive because we will rely on these exemptions. If some investors find our common stock less attractive as a result, there may be a less active trading market for our common stock and our stock price may be more volatile. We may take advantage of these reporting exemptions until we are no longer an emerging growth company and/or smaller reporting company, as applicable.

We incur significant costs as a result of being a public company, and such costs may increase when we cease to be an emerging growth company and/or smaller reporting company.

As a public company, we incur significant legal, accounting, insurance and other expenses that we have not incurred as a private company, including costs associated with public company reporting requirements of the Exchange Act, the Sarbanes-Oxley Act, the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act of 2010, as amended (the “Dodd-Frank Act”), the listing requirements of Nasdaq and other applicable securities rules and regulations. Compliance with these rules and regulations may significantly increase our legal and financial compliance costs, make some activities more difficult, time-consuming or costly and increase demand on our systems and resources. As a result, our executive officers’ attention may be diverted from other business concerns, which could adversely affect our business and results of operations. Furthermore, the expenses incurred by public companies generally for reporting and corporate governance purposes have been increasing. We expect compliance with these public reporting requirements and associated rules and regulations to increase expenses, particularly after we are no longer an emerging growth company nor a smaller reporting company, although we are currently unable to estimate these costs with any degree of certainty. We could be an emerging growth company for up to five full fiscal years, although circumstances could cause us to lose that status earlier as discussed above, which could result in our incurring additional costs applicable to public companies that are not emerging growth companies. We may be a smaller reporting company even after we are no longer an emerging growth company.

In addition, changing laws, regulations and standards relating to corporate governance and public disclosure are creating uncertainty for public companies, increasing legal and financial compliance costs and making some activities more time consuming. These laws, regulations and standards are subject to varying interpretations, in many cases due to their lack of specificity, and, as a result, their application in practice may evolve over time as new guidance is provided by regulatory and governing bodies. This could result in continuing uncertainty regarding compliance matters and higher costs necessitated by ongoing revisions to disclosure and governance practices. If our efforts to comply with new laws, regulations and standards differ from the activities intended by regulatory or governing bodies due to ambiguities related to their application and practice, regulatory authorities may initiate legal proceedings against us and our business may be adversely affected.

General Risk Factors

Ineffective internal controls could impact our business and operating results.

Our internal control over financial reporting may not prevent or detect misstatements because of its inherent limitations, including the possibility of human error, the circumvention or overriding of controls, or fraud. Even effective internal controls can provide only reasonable assurance with respect to the preparation and fair presentation of financial statements. If we fail to maintain the adequacy of our internal controls, including any failure to implement required new or improved controls, or if we experience difficulties in their implementation, our business and operating results could be harmed and the reliability of our consolidated financial statements could be compromised.

Future sales of our capital stock or other securities convertible into our capital stock could cause the value of our common stock to decline and could result in dilution of your shares of our common stock.

Our Board is authorized, without your approval, to cause us to issue additional shares of our common stock or to raise capital through the creation and issuance of our preferred stock, debt securities convertible into common stock, options, warrants and other rights, on terms and for consideration as our Board in its sole discretion may determine.

Sales of substantial amounts of our capital stock or other securities convertible into our capital stock could cause the valuation of our capital stock to decrease significantly. We cannot predict the effect, if any, of future sales of our equity, or the availability of our equity for future sales, on the value of our equity. Sales of substantial amounts of our equity by any large shareholder, or the perception that such sales could occur, may adversely affect the valuation of our equity.

If we fail to maintain an effective system of internal control over financial reporting, we may not be able to accurately report our financial results or prevent fraud. As a result, shareholders could lose confidence in our financial and other public reporting, which would materially adversely affect our business and the trading price of our common stock.

Effective internal controls over financial reporting are necessary for us to provide reliable financial reports and are designed to prevent fraud. Any failure to implement required new or improved controls, or difficulties encountered in their implementation could cause us to fail to meet our reporting obligations. When we lose our status both as an emerging growth company and a smaller reporting company, our independent registered public accounting firm will be required to attest to the effectiveness of our internal control over financial reporting. The rules governing the standards that must be met for management to assess our internal control over financial reporting are complex and require significant documentation, testing and possible remediation. Any testing by us conducted in connection with Section 404 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act, or any subsequent testing by our independent registered public accounting firm, may reveal deficiencies in our internal controls over financial reporting that are deemed to be material weaknesses or that may require prospective or retroactive changes to our consolidated financial statements or identify other areas for further attention or improvement. Inadequate internal controls could also cause investors to lose confidence in our reported financial information, which could materially adversely affect the trading price of our common stock.

Our disclosure controls and procedures may not prevent or detect all errors or acts of fraud.

We are subject to the periodic reporting requirements of the Exchange Act. We designed our disclosure controls and procedures to reasonably assure that information we must disclose in reports we file or submit under the Exchange Act is accumulated and communicated to management, and recorded, processed, summarized and reported within the time periods specified in the rules and forms of the SEC. We believe that any disclosure controls and procedures or internal controls and procedures, no matter how well-conceived and operated, can provide only reasonable, not absolute, assurance that the objectives of the control system are met.

These inherent limitations include the realities that judgments in decision-making can be faulty, and that breakdowns can occur because of simple error or mistake. For example, our directors or executive officers could inadvertently fail to disclose a new relationship or arrangement causing us to fail to make any related party transaction disclosures. Additionally, controls can be circumvented by the individual acts of some persons, by collusion of two or more people or by an unauthorized override of the controls. Accordingly, because of the inherent limitations in our control system, misstatements due to error or fraud may occur and not be detected.

Item 1B. Unresolved Staff Comments

None.

Item 1C. Cybersecurity

The Company has no employees and is externally managed by our Manager. Pursuant to the terms of the Management Agreement, our Manager manages, operates and administers our day-to-day operations, business and affairs, subject to the direction and supervision of the Board. The Board recognizes the critical importance of maintaining the trust and confidence of our business partners. The Board plays an active role in overseeing management of our risks, and cybersecurity represents an important component of the Company's overall approach to risk management and oversight. The Company and our Manager are committed to protecting the confidentiality of all nonpublic information related to the Company's borrowers, shareholders and their personnel.

Risk Management and Strategy

As an externally managed company, the Company relies on our Manager's corporate information technology, accounting and financial reporting platforms, enterprise applications and related systems (our "Information Systems") in connection with the Company's day-to-day operations. Our Manager has adopted a written information security program (the "Written Information Security Policy"), which is designed to address applicable requirements under Regulation S-P and the FTC Safeguards Rule. Consequently, the Company also relies on the processes for assessing, identifying, and managing material risks from cybersecurity threats under the Manager's Written Information Security Policy. The processes include, among other things, maintaining secure digital or physical access to information assets, using manual and automated detection methods for malicious code, due diligence of third-party vendors, and engaging a leading provider of cybersecurity services to assess and manage cybersecurity risk. For third-party service vendors that perform a variety of important functions for our business, we seek to engage reliable, reputable service vendors that maintain cybersecurity programs.

All of the Company's officers and employees are employees of the Manager and subject to its policies and procedures. Our Manager utilizes a third-party managed & cybersecurity services provider (the "MSSP") for cybersecurity services, including threat detection and response, vulnerability assessment and monitoring, security incident response and recovery and general cybersecurity education and awareness. Our Manager and the MSSP engage in periodic assessment and training regarding the policies, standards and practices designed to address cybersecurity threats and incidents. Our cybersecurity risk management is integrated into our overall enterprise risk management and shares common methodologies, reporting channels and governance processes that apply across our enterprise risk management

To date, we have not experienced any cybersecurity threats, including as a result of any previous cybersecurity incidents, that have materially affected the Company and we are not aware of any cybersecurity threats that are reasonably likely to affect the Company, including its business strategy, results of operations or financial condition. For additional discussion of the risks posed by cybersecurity threats, see *"Risk Factors—General Risk Factors—We rely on information technology in our operations, and security breaches and other disruptions in our systems could compromise our information and expose us to liability, which would cause our business and reputation to suffer."*

Governance

The Company's Audit and Valuation Committee oversees the Company's cybersecurity risk management process. The Audit and Valuation Committee has adopted a charter that provides that the Audit and Valuation Committee must periodically review and discuss with the Company's management team the Company's guidelines and policies with respect to risk assessment and risk management of cybersecurity and other risk exposures relevant to the Company's computerized information system controls and security. The Audit and Valuation Committee may receive additional training in cybersecurity and data privacy matters to enable its oversight of such risks. The Audit and Valuation Committee will report to the Board on the substance of such reviews and discussions and, as necessary, recommend to the Board such actions as the Audit and Valuation Committee deems appropriate.

As noted above, the Company relies on our Manager's Information Systems in connection with the Company's day-to-day operations. The Company relies on the MSSP's processes for assessing, identifying, and managing material risks from cybersecurity threats.

The Company's Chief Financial Officer and Treasurer, Chief Legal Officer and Secretary, and Head of IT work collaboratively with other employees of our Manager and the MSSP to ensure the MSSP's services protect the Company's Information Systems from cybersecurity threats and to promptly respond to any cybersecurity incidents. These members of the Company's management team, together with the MSSP, monitor the prevention, detection, mitigation and remediation of cybersecurity threats and incidents and report such threats and incidents to the Audit and Valuation Committee when appropriate. These members of the Company's management team meet periodically to assess cybersecurity risks and discuss with the Audit and Valuation Committee. They have gained relevant knowledge, skills and experience in information technology and cybersecurity risk management, including overseeing third-party vendors in such areas, over their careers at the Company or other organizations.

Item 2. Properties

We currently maintain our executive office in West Palm Beach, Florida. Our Florida office is leased by our Manager or one of its affiliates from a third party and pursuant to the terms of our Management Agreement, we reimburse our Manager (or its affiliate, as applicable) for certain expenses relating to such offices (including our pro-rata portion of rent, telephone, printing, mailing, utilities, office furniture, equipment, machinery and other office, internal and overhead expenses), as well as expenses relating to disaster backup recovery sites and facilities maintained for us, our affiliates, our loans or our Manager or its affiliates, in each case, as required for our operation.

Item 3. Legal Proceedings

From time to time, we may become involved in litigation or other legal proceedings relating to claims arising from the ordinary course of business. Furthermore, third parties may try to seek to impose liability on us in connection with our loans. As of December 31, 2023, we were not subject to any material legal proceedings.

Item 4. Mine Safety Disclosures

Not applicable.

PART II

Item 5. Market for Registrant's Common Equity, Related Stockholder Matters and Issuer Purchases of Equity Securities

Our common stock is listed for trading on the Nasdaq Stock Market under the symbol "AFCG." On March 1, 2024, the closing price of our common stock, as reported on the Nasdaq, was \$11.52 per share. There were 52 holders of record of our common stock as of March 1, 2024. This number does not include beneficial owners who hold shares of our common stock in street name. However, because many of our common shares are held by brokers and other institutions, we believe that there are many more beneficial holders of our common shares than record holders.

Distribution Policy

U.S. federal income tax law generally requires that a REIT distribute annually at least 90% of its REIT taxable income, without regard to the deduction for dividends paid and excluding net capital gains and certain non-cash income, and that it pay tax at regular corporate rates to the extent that it annually distributes less than 100% of such REIT taxable income. If we distribute less than the sum of (i) 85% of our ordinary income for the calendar year, (ii) 95% of our capital gain net income for the calendar year, and (iii) any undistributed shortfall from our prior calendar year (the "Required Distribution") to our shareholders during any calendar year (including any distributions declared by the last day of the calendar year but paid in the subsequent year), then we are required to pay a non-deductible excise tax equal to 4% of any shortfall between the Required Distribution and the amount that was actually distributed.

As a result, in order to satisfy the requirements for us to qualify as a REIT and generally not be subject to U.S. federal income and excise tax, we intend to make regular quarterly distributions of all or substantially all of our REIT taxable income to our shareholders out of assets legally available therefor. REIT taxable income as computed for purposes of the foregoing tax rules will not necessarily correspond to our net income as determined for financial reporting purposes, or our Distributable Earnings as described under “*Management’s Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations—Key Financial Measures and Indicators—Distributable Earnings.*”

Any future determination to actually pay dividends or other distributions will be at the discretion of our Board, subject to compliance with applicable law and any contractual provisions, including under agreements for indebtedness we may incur, that restrict or limit our ability to pay dividends, and will depend upon, among other factors, our results of operations, financial condition, earnings, capital requirements, the annual distribution requirements under the REIT provisions of the Code, our REIT taxable income and other factors that our Board deems relevant. Under the MGCL, we generally may only pay a dividend or other distribution if, after giving effect to the distribution, we would be able to pay our indebtedness as it becomes due in the usual course of business and our total assets exceed our total liabilities.

To the extent that our cash available for distribution is less than the amount required to be distributed under the REIT provisions of the Code, we may be required to fund distributions from working capital or through equity, equity-related or debt financings or, in certain circumstances, asset sales, as to which our ability to consummate loans in a timely manner on favorable terms, or at all, cannot be assured, or we may make a portion of the Required Distribution in the form of a taxable stock distribution or distribution of debt securities.

Equity Compensation Plan Information

See Note 11 to our consolidated financial statements for the year ending December 31, 2023 included in this Annual Report for information regarding our 2020 Stock Incentive Plan.

Recent Sales of Unregistered Securities

None.

Issuer Purchases of Equity Securities

On June 13, 2023, our Board authorized a share repurchase program providing for the repurchase of up to \$20.0 million of our outstanding common stock (the “Repurchase Program”). The timing, price, and volume of repurchases will be based on our stock price, general market conditions, applicable legal requirements and other factors. The repurchase of our common stock may be made from time to time in the open market, in privately negotiated transactions or otherwise in compliance with Rule 10b-18 and Rule 10b5-1 under the Exchange Act. We expect to finance any share repurchases under the Repurchase Program using cash on hand, capacity available under our Revolving Credit Facility and cash flows from operations. The Repurchase Program is authorized until December 31, 2025 and may be discontinued, modified or suspended at any time. During the three months December 31, 2023, we did not repurchase any shares of our common stock pursuant to the Repurchase Program.

Period	Total Number of Shares Purchased	Average Price Paid per Share	Total Number of Shares Purchased as Part of Publicly Announced Plans or Programs	Maximum Approximate Dollar Value of Shares that May Yet Be Purchased Under the Program
October 1, 2023 to October 31, 2023	—	\$ —	—	\$ 20,000,000
November 1, 2023 to November 30, 2023	—	—	—	20,000,000
December 1, 2023 to December 31, 2023	—	—	—	20,000,000
	<u>—</u>		<u>—</u>	

Item 6. Reserved

None.

Item 7. Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations

The following discussion and analysis of our financial condition and results of operations should be read in conjunction with our consolidated financial statements and our accompanying notes and other information included in this Annual Report. This discussion and analysis contains forward-looking statements that involve risks and uncertainties which could cause our actual results to differ materially from those anticipated in these forward-looking statements, including, but not limited to, risks and uncertainties discussed under the heading "Risk Factors," in this Annual Report. Unless the context otherwise requires, as used in this section the terms "we," "us," "our," or "AFCG," refers to AFC Gamma, Inc.

Business Overview

AFC Gamma, Inc. is an institutional lender to the commercial real estate sector that was founded in July 2020 by a veteran team of investment professionals. We primarily originate, structure, underwrite, invest in and manage senior secured loans and other types of commercial real estate loans and debt securities, with a specialization in loans to cannabis industry operators in states that have legalized medical and/or adult-use cannabis. We have recently expanded our investment guidelines to deploy capital in attractive lending opportunities secured by commercial real estate. Our expanded investment guidelines now include (i) first and second lien loans secured by mortgages to commercial real estate owners, operators and related businesses that are not related to the cannabis industry, (ii) the ownership of non-cannabis related real property assets, and (iii) mortgage-backed securities, in addition to our prior sole focus on first lien loans secured by mortgages to cannabis operators in states that have legalized medical and/or adult use cannabis. We expect the underwriting and investment process for these investments under our expanded guidelines to be substantially similar to the process we deploy for our loans to cannabis operators.

Our objective is to provide attractive risk-adjusted returns over time through cash distributions and capital appreciation primarily by providing loans to real estate developers and state law compliant cannabis companies. The loans we originate are primarily structured as senior loans secured by real estate, equipment, value associated with licenses (where applicable) and/or other assets of the loan parties to the extent permitted by applicable laws and the regulations governing such loan parties. Some of our cannabis-related borrowers have their equity securities listed for public trading on the Canadian Securities Exchange ("CSE") in Canada and/or over-the-counter ("OTC") in the United States.

Spin-Off

On February 22, 2024, we announced that our Board unanimously approved a plan to spin-off (the "Spin-Off") our commercial real estate ("CRE") portfolio into an independent, publicly traded REIT, named Sunrise Realty Trust, Inc. ("SUNS").

The separation and the resulting Spin-Off is expected to be implemented in two steps. First, we expect to contribute, and SUNS expects to accept and assume, all of the assets, liabilities and business related to our CRE lending business not related to our business of structuring, underwriting, origination and investing in loans to and debt securities of cannabis industry operators, as currently conducted by SUNS, including the operations, properties, services and activities of such business (the "Contribution"), to the extent such assets, liabilities and business are not already held at SUNS. Then, we plan to distribute all of the outstanding shares of SUNS common stock ("SUNS Common Stock") on the distribution date to our stockholders as of the record date on a pro rata basis. We and SUNS expect that \$115 million of assets in the aggregate, in a combination of loans and cash, will either be contributed to SUNS in the Contribution or be held by SUNS immediately following the Contribution. Following the distribution, we and SUNS expect the SUNS Common Stock to be listed on the Nasdaq Capital Market.

SUNS has filed a registration statement on Form 10 with the Securities and Exchange Commission which provides additional details about the Spin-Off.

Net interest income

We operate as one operating segment and are primarily focused on financing senior secured loans and other types of commercial real estate loans and debt securities, with a specialization in loans to established cannabis industry operators in states that have legalized medical and/or adult-use cannabis. These loans are generally held for investment and are secured by real estate, equipment, value associated with licenses (where applicable) and/or other assets of the loan parties to the extent permitted by the applicable laws and the regulations governing such loan parties.

We generate revenue primarily in the form of interest income on loans. The majority of our loans currently accrue interest at a variable rate. As of December 31, 2023, seven of our loans, representing approximately 68% of our portfolio based on aggregate outstanding principal balances, paid interest at a variable rate tied to either SOFR or U.S. prime rate. Interest on our loans is generally payable monthly or quarterly. The principal amount of our loans and any accrued but unpaid interest thereon generally become due at the applicable maturity date. In many cases, our interest income includes a paid-in-kind ("PIK") component for a portion of the total interest. The PIK interest, computed at the contractual rate specified in each applicable loan agreement, is accrued in accordance with the terms of such loan agreement and added to the principal balance of the loan and recorded as interest income. The PIK interest added to the principal balance is typically amortized and paid in accordance with the applicable loan agreement. In cases where the loans do not amortize, the PIK interest is collected upon repayment of the outstanding principal. We also generate revenue from OID, which is also recognized as interest income from loans over the initial term of the applicable loans. Delayed draw loans may also earn unused fees on the undrawn portion of the loan, which is recognized as interest income in the period earned. Other fees, including prepayment fees and exit fees, are also recognized as interest income when received. Any such fees will be generated in connection with our loans and recognized as earned in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles ("GAAP") in the United States.

Net interest income primarily consists of the interest income we earn on loans, less the interest expense we incur on our debt. Interest expense is incurred based on the terms of our 2027 Senior Notes and Revolving Credit Agreement.

Expenses

Our primary operating expenses are the payment of Base Management Fees and Incentive Compensation under our Management Agreement with our Manager and the allocable portion of overhead and other expenses paid or incurred on our behalf, including reimbursing our Manager for a certain portion of the compensation of certain personnel of the Manager who assist in the management of our affairs, excepting only those expenses that are specifically the responsibility of our Manager pursuant to our Management Agreement. We bear all other costs and expenses of our operations and transactions, including (without limitation) fees and expenses relating to:

- organizational and offering expenses;
- quarterly valuation expenses;
- fees payable to third parties relating to, or associated with, making loans and valuing loans (including third-party valuation firms);
- fees and expenses associated with investor relations and marketing efforts (including attendance at investment conferences and similar events);
- federal and state registration fees;
- any exchange listing fees;
- federal, state and local taxes;
- independent directors' fees and expenses;
- brokerage commissions;
- costs of proxy statements, shareholders' reports and notices; and
- costs of preparing government filings, including periodic and current reports with the SEC.

Prior to the consummation of our IPO, we were not obligated to reimburse our Manager or its affiliates, as applicable, for any compensation paid to Mr. Tannenbaum, Mr. Kalikow or Mrs. Tannenbaum. For the years ended December 31, 2023 and 2022, our Manager did not seek reimbursement for our allocable share of Mr. Kalikow and Mr. Tannenbaum's compensation, but did seek reimbursement for our allocable share of Mrs. Tannenbaum's compensation.

Income Taxes

We are a Maryland corporation and have elected to be taxed as a REIT under the Code, commencing with our taxable year ended December 31, 2020. We believe that we have qualified, and our organization and current and proposed method of operation will enable us to continue to qualify, as a REIT. However, no assurances can be given that our beliefs or expectations will be fulfilled, since qualification as a REIT depends on us satisfying numerous asset, income and distribution tests which depend, in part, on our operating results.

To qualify as a REIT, we must meet a number of organizational and operational requirements, including a requirement that we distribute annually to our shareholders at least 90% of our REIT taxable income, as adjusted, prior to the deduction for dividends paid. To the extent that we distribute less than 100% of such REIT taxable income in any tax year (taking into account any distributions made in a subsequent tax year under Sections 857(b)(9) or 858 of the Code), we will pay tax at regular corporate rates on that undistributed portion. Furthermore, if we distribute less than the sum of (i) 85% of our ordinary income for the calendar year, (ii) 95% of our capital gain net income for the calendar year, and (iii) any Required Distribution to our shareholders during any calendar year (including any distributions declared by the last day of the calendar year but paid in the subsequent year), then we are required to pay a non-deductible excise tax equal to 4% of any shortfall between such Required Distribution and the amount that was actually distributed. Any of these taxes would decrease cash available for distribution to our shareholders. The 90% distribution requirement does not require the distribution of net capital gains. However, if we elect to retain any of our net capital gain for any tax year, we must notify our shareholders and pay tax at regular corporate rates on the retained net capital gain. Our shareholders must include their proportionate share of the retained net capital gain in their taxable income for the tax year, and they will be deemed to have paid the REIT's tax on their proportionate share of the retained capital gain. Furthermore, such retained capital gain may be subject to the nondeductible 4% excise tax.

Our wholly-owned subsidiary, TRS1, operates as a TRS and began operating in July 2021. A TRS is an entity taxed as a corporation that has not elected to be taxed as a REIT, in which a REIT directly or indirectly holds equity, and that has made a joint election with such REIT to be treated as a TRS. A TRS generally may engage in any business, including investing in assets and engaging in activities that could not be held or conducted directly by us without jeopardizing our qualification as a REIT. A TRS is subject to applicable United States federal, state and local income tax on its taxable income. In addition, as a REIT, we also may be subject to a 100% excise tax on certain transactions between us and our TRS that are not conducted on an arm's-length basis. If it is determined that our estimated current year taxable income (including net capital gain) will be in excess of estimated dividend distributions (including capital gains dividends) for the current year from such income, we accrue excise tax on a portion of the estimated excess taxable income as such taxable income is earned. The annual expense is calculated in accordance with applicable tax regulations. The income tax provision is included in the line item income tax expense, including excise tax in the consolidated statements of operations included in this Annual Report.

Developments During the Year Ended December 31, 2023:

Updates to Our Loan Portfolio During the Year Ended December 31, 2023

In January 2023, TRS1 agreed with Private Company I, subject to certain terms and conditions (including payment of full cash interest, rather than partial PIK interest, which was previously agreed to), to defer an upcoming principal payment. In March 2023, TRS1 agreed, subject to certain terms and conditions, to defer an upcoming principal payment and permit a portion of an upcoming cash interest payment to instead be paid in kind. In May 2023, Private Company I failed to pay its full principal and interest payments due May 1, 2023. The agent on the credit facility, AFC Agent LLC ("AFC Agent"), promptly delivered a notice of an event of default based on this payment default and certain other defaults under the credit agreement, accelerated all obligations due thereunder and subsequently initiated a foreclosing procedure in the State of Maryland. In June 2023, we sold two-thirds of the Private Company I credit facility at par plus accrued interest to a multi-state cannabis operator and we have a put right on the remaining one-third immediately prior to the transfer of one of the borrower's cannabis licenses. As of December 31, 2023, our outstanding principal balance was approximately \$3.8 million, which is fully funded.

In February 2023, the Company entered into an amendment with Private Company K, which reduced its total loan commitment under the credit facility with Private Company K from approximately \$25.2 million to \$14.5 million. Among other things, the amendment increased the PIK rate from 0.0% to 2.0%, removed the unused fee going forward on the remaining undrawn commitment, and established a \$1.5 million interest reserve. In August 2023, we entered into an amendment with Private Company K, which among other things, (i) amended the minimum cash balance financial covenant, (ii) delayed the start date for amortization payments and (iii) the total loan commitment under the credit facility with Private Company K was reduced from approximately \$14.5 million to \$13.2 million, which is fully funded. In November 2023, the Company entered into an amendment with Private Company K to, among other things, terminate the remaining unfunded portion of the total loan commitment.

In February 2023, we sold \$15.0 million of our investment in Subsidiary of Public Company M, which was purchased at a blended weighted-average discount of 90.9% and sold for 91.4% of face value. The sale proceeds approximated the carrying value at the time of sale. In June 2023, TRS1 purchased \$12.0 million in outstanding principal amount of Subsidiary of Public Company M, issued at a blended weighted-average discount of 19.3%, from a third party lender and the third party lender assigned all rights, title and interest to the Company. The term loans under the Subsidiary of Public Company M Credit Facility accrue interest at a fixed rate per annum of 9.5%. In December 2023, TRS1 sold \$2.0 million of our investment in Subsidiary of Public Company M, which was purchased at a discount of 91.3% and sold for 90.0% of face value, resulting in a realized loss of approximately \$(0.1) million.

In March 2023, we entered into a forbearance and modification agreement with Private Company B, pursuant to which we agreed to, subject to additional 4.0% capitalized PIK interest and certain other terms and conditions, forbear from exercising our rights and remedies with respect to specified defaults under the applicable Private Company B loan documents until the earlier of (i) April 30, 2023, (ii) certain refinancing or cash equity contribution events, and (iii) any new event of default thereunder. In connection with such forbearance and modification agreement, the Company also agreed to, subject to certain terms and conditions, waive compliance with certain covenants for one fiscal quarter and defer specified principal payments. The maturity date passed on the credit facility to Private Company B without repayment. The agent on the credit facility sent the borrower a notice of default and Private Company B was placed into receivership to maintain the borrower's operations that were disrupted as a result of a management dispute. We have been in discussion with the borrower regarding refinancing the credit facility and with the receiver regarding a potential sale of the business in order to repay the loan. Until the loan is repaid, the borrower is obligated to pay interest at a base weighted average interest rate of 14.7% and PIK interest rate of 4.0%, plus a default interest rate of 4.0%. As amended by the forbearance and modification agreement entered into with Private Company B in February 2023, the 4.0% default interest rate is applicable from January 15, 2023 and is paid in kind. Outstanding principal balance also includes a protective advance of approximately \$0.2 million made in September 2023 to cover certain expenses and was repaid in November 2023. Interest on the protective advance was calculated at the same rate as standard monthly cash interest and PIK interest, plus default interest.

In March 2023, the credit facility with Private Company A was amended to, among other things and subject to certain terms and conditions, (i) increase the interest rate of certain tranches such that the facility has a uniform interest rate of 13.0% across certain tranches; (ii) reprioritize the allocation of principal and interest payments to first be applied to a specific tranche under the facility; and (iii) establish the requirement for a blocked account to hold the cash proceeds from the sale of certain assets and distribute such proceeds to the lenders. In October 2023, AFC Agent delivered a notice of default to Private Company A based on certain financial and other covenant defaults and, as of July 1, 2023, began charging additional default interest of 5.0% in accordance with the terms of the Private Company A Credit Facility. In November 2023, Private Company A was placed into receivership to maintain the borrower's operations and maximize value for the benefit of its creditors. The court-appointed receiver began liquidating certain assets for the benefit of the creditors. During the year ended December 31, 2023, AFC Agent received approximately \$48.2 million in total loan principal prepayments and \$1.4 million in related exit fees from the borrower's sale of some of its collateral assets, of which approximately \$34.7 million in principal prepayments and \$1.1 million in related exit fees were allocated to us relating to our pro rata portion of the Private Company A Credit Facility and was applied to the outstanding principal balance. As of December 31, 2023, our outstanding principal balance was approximately \$53.4 million, which is fully funded.

In April 2023, the credit facility with Subsidiary of Private Company G was amended to, among other things and subject to certain other terms and conditions, (i) amend certain cash equity capital contribution requirements, (ii) add additional real property to the collateral, (iii) extend the draw period, (iv) permit 75% of accrued cash interest due and owing to instead be paid in kind until and including the payment due May 1, 2023, subject to a monthly fee, and (v) modify the excess cash flow sweep. Subsidiary of Private Company G failed to make its cash interest payment due July 1, 2023 in arrears for the month of June, and we placed the borrower on non-accrual from June 1, 2023 to August 31, 2023. In connection therewith, we initiated a consensual foreclosure proceeding with respect to certain of the borrower's assets in Pennsylvania, with the expectation that the net cash proceeds of the public auction would be used to prepay a portion of the principal outstanding under the credit facility. On September 6, 2023, the foreclosure proceeding was adjourned indefinitely. We subsequently entered into a forbearance agreement with Subsidiary of Private Company G in September 2023, pursuant to which we agreed to forbear from exercising certain remedies as a result of certain defaults under the credit agreement. In exchange for such forbearance, Subsidiary of Private Company G agreed to, among other things, sell certain assets, including certain collateral, the proceeds of which will be applied to the outstanding obligations under the credit agreement with Private Company G, to provide certain additional collateral, and to contribute additional cash equity to be held in escrow by AFC Agent. As amended by the forbearance agreement entered into with Subsidiary of Private Company G, the borrower was required to pay interest of \$0.8 million pro rata to the lender group for the month of September and to pay \$1.0 million pro rata to the lender group for each of the months of October, November, and December 2023. Subsidiary of Private Company G paid September, October, and November interest in accordance with the terms of the forbearance agreement, which was due October 1, 2023, November 1, 2023, and December 1, 2023, respectively, and the credit facility was restored to accrual status. During the fourth quarter of 2023, AFC Agent received \$1.5 million from the sale of some of the collateral assets of Subsidiary of Private Company G, of which approximately \$1.3 million was allocated to us and applied to the outstanding interest balance. Subsidiary of Private Company G did not make its cash interest payment due January 1, 2024 in arrears for the month of December, and we placed the borrower on non-accrual status as of December 1, 2023. As of December 31, 2023, our outstanding principal balance under the credit facility with Subsidiary of Private Company G was approximately \$79.2 million, which is fully funded.

In April 2023, the credit agreement with Subsidiary of Public Company H was amended to, among other things, (i) reduce the total loan commitment by \$10.0 million ratably amongst the lenders, including us, of which \$6.0 million of the reduced commitment was allocated to us and \$9.0 million of additional principal was funded by us, (ii) strengthen the real estate coverage covenants and (iii) require certain conditions precedent be met prior to disbursing funds to construction projects. Following the amendment, we held \$84.0 million in commitments. As of December 31, 2023, our outstanding principal balance under the credit facility with Subsidiary of Public Company H was \$84.0 million, which is fully funded.

In June 2023, Subsidiary of Private Company H repaid its loan in full. The outstanding principal of Subsidiary of Private Company H on the date of repayment was approximately \$5.8 million. We received exit fees of approximately \$0.2 million.

In July 2023, TRS1 purchased a secured seller promissory note from Private Company A (the "seller note") that was issued by Private Company M in favor of Private Company A as a portion of the total purchase price for certain of Private Company A and its subsidiaries' assets and operations in Arizona. The seller note is for an amount equal to \$30.0 million and is secured by substantially all the assets of Private Company M. The seller note is also guaranteed by the parent company of Private Company M. The seller note matures on July 31, 2026 and accrues interest at a rate of 9.0% per annum until February 2026, and at a rate of 15.0% per annum thereafter. TRS1 purchased the seller note from Private Company A at a discount of approximately 16.0% for a purchase price equal to approximately \$25.2 million.

In September 2023, we entered into an amendment with Private Company L, which, among other things, (i) amended the interest rate to a base interest rate of 8.4% per annum plus SOFR, with a SOFR floor of 5.0%, (ii) amend the draw procedures and conditions, (iii) push back the start date for amortization payments, (iv) require certain excess cash flow and equity contribution payments, and (v) amend the financial covenant requirements.

In September 2023, the credit facility with Public Company A matured without repayment. The agent on the credit facility has placed the borrower in default, and the Company has recorded a realized loss of approximately \$(1.2) million.

In October 2023, the Board appointed Daniel Neville as the Chief Executive Officer of the Company and a member of its Investment Committee, effective as of November 13, 2023. Mr. Neville succeeds Leonard Tannenbaum as Chief Executive Officer, and Mr. Tannenbaum has transitioned from his role as Chairman of the Board and Chief Executive Officer to Executive Chairman and Chief Investment Officer as of the effective date.

At-the-Market Offering Program

In April 2022, we filed our shelf registration statement on Form S-3 with the SEC, registering the offer and sale of up to \$1.0 billion of securities (the “Shelf Registration Statement”). The Shelf Registration Statement enables us to issue shares of common stock, preferred stock, debt securities, warrants, rights, as well as units that include one or more of such securities. The Shelf Registration Statement also included a prospectus for the ATM Program to sell up to an aggregate of \$75.0 million of shares of our common stock that may be issued and sold from time to time under the Sales Agreement, dated April 5, 2022 (the “Sales Agreement”), with Jefferies LLC and JMP Securities LLC, as Sales Agents. Under the terms of the Sales Agreement, we have agreed to pay the Sales Agents a commission of up to 3.0% of the gross proceeds from each sale of common stock under the Sales Agreement.

During the year ended December 31, 2023, we did not sell any shares of our common stock under the Sales Agreement.

Share Repurchase Program

On June 13, 2023, our Board authorized the Repurchase Program. The timing, price, and volume of repurchases will be based on our stock price, general market conditions, applicable legal requirements and other factors. The repurchase of our common stock may be made from time to time in the open market, in privately negotiated transactions or otherwise in compliance with Rule 10b-18 and Rule 10b5-1 under the Exchange Act. We expect to finance any share repurchases under the Repurchase Program using cash on hand, capacity available under our line of credit and cash flows from operations. The Repurchase Program is authorized until December 31, 2025 and may be discontinued, modified or suspended at any time. During the year ended December 31, 2023, we did not repurchase any shares of our common stock pursuant to the Repurchase Program.

Dividends Declared Per Share

For the years ended December 31, 2023 and 2022, we paid the following cash dividends:

Payable to Shareholders of Record at the Close of Business		Date Paid	Amount per Share	Aggregate Amount Paid
Date Declared	on			
March 10, 2022	March 31, 2022	April 15, 2022	\$ 0.55	\$ 10.9 million
June 15, 2022	June 30, 2022	July 15, 2022	0.56	11.1 million
September 15, 2022	September 30, 2022	October 14, 2022	0.56	11.4 million
December 15, 2022	December 31, 2022	January 13, 2023	0.56	11.4 million
2022 Period Subtotal			\$ 2.23	\$ 44.8 million
March 2, 2023	March 31, 2023	April 14, 2023	\$ 0.56	\$ 11.5 million
June 15, 2023	June 30, 2023	July 14, 2023	0.48	9.8 million
September 15, 2023	September 30, 2023	October 13, 2023	0.48	9.8 million
December 15, 2023	December 31, 2023	January 12, 2024	0.48	9.8 million
2023 Period Subtotal			\$ 2.00	\$ 40.9 million

Recent Developments

On December 29, 2023, we drew \$42.0 million on our Revolving Credit Facility. All outstanding borrowings on the Revolving Credit Facility were subsequently repaid in full on January 2, 2024.

In January 2024, the Company and an affiliate entered into a secured mezzanine loan with CRE Private Company A that was syndicated by the affiliate, consisting of an aggregate of \$56.4 million in loan commitments, of which \$28.2 million was funded by us and another \$28.2 million was provided by an affiliate. The Company and affiliate are each 50.0% syndicate lenders in the secured mezzanine loan. The secured mezzanine loan bears interest at an annual rate of Secured Overnight Financing Rate (“SOFR”) plus 15.31% spread, subject to a SOFR floor of 2.42%. At the end of January 2024, the Company and affiliate entered into an amendment to the secured mezzanine loan with CRE Private Company A, which among other things, (1) extended the maturity date to May 31, 2024 and (2) amended the SOFR floor from 2.42% to 4.00%. Pursuant to the amendment, the Company and affiliate expect to receive an extension fee of approximately \$0.1 million each, respectively.

In January 2024, the Company and an affiliate entered into a secured mezzanine loan with CRE Private Company B that was syndicated by the affiliate, consisting of an aggregate of \$56.4 million in loan commitments, of which \$20.7 million was funded by us and another \$20.7 million was provided by an affiliate. The secured mezzanine loan was purchased by us and an affiliate at a discount of 1.0% for a purchase price of approximately \$20.4 million each, respectively. Approximately \$15.0 million was established as an unfunded commitment, available to be drawn to pay interest on the secured mezzanine loan, of which we are responsible for \$7.5 million. The Company and affiliate are each 50.0% syndicate lenders in the secured mezzanine loan. The secured mezzanine loan bears interest at an annual fixed rate of 13.00% and matures in May 2027.

In January 2024, we entered into a partial release and amendment with Private Company L to, among other things, (i) permit the sale and release of certain collateral located in Missouri, subject to the terms and conditions contained therein and (ii) amend certain of the draw and prepayment requirements. In January 2024, we received approximately \$11.4 million prepayment from Private Company L's sale of certain collateral assets and \$0.3 million prepayment premium.

In January 2024, we delivered a reservation of rights letter to Private Company K with respect to the occurrence of certain events of default, including the failure to make principal and interest payments when due and deliver monthly statements as required under the credit agreement with Private Company K. In March 2024, we entered into a forbearance agreement with Private Company K, pursuant to which we agreed to forbear from exercising certain remedies as a result of the certain defaults under the credit agreement. In exchange for such forbearance, Private Company K agreed to, among others, (i) additional reporting requirements and (ii) contribute additional cash equity in an aggregate amount of up to \$3.5 million in increments on or before June 30, 2024 or obtain a combination of additional equity and debt financing in an aggregate amount of up to \$8.5 million in increments on or before August 31, 2024, certain of the proceeds of which shall be applied to the outstanding obligations under the credit agreement. The existing credit agreement was amended by the forbearance agreement entered into with Private Company K to require (a) 20% of the interest payable for December 2023 and January 2024 to be payable in cash in arrears and 80% paid in kind, (b) 35% of the interest payable for February 2024 to be payable in cash in arrears and 65% to be paid in kind, (c) 50% of the interest payable for March 2024, April 2024 and May 2024 to be payable in cash in arrears and 50% to be paid in kind, (d) interest for the remainder of the months during the term of the forbearance agreement to be payable in cash in arrears and (e) payments of principal during the term of the forbearance to be deferred during the term of the forbearance agreement. We placed Private Company K on non-accrual status effective December 1, 2023 and will recognize income related to loan activity only upon receipt of cash.

In February 2024, AFC Agent received approximately \$4.7 million in total loan principal prepayments and \$0.1 million in related exit fees from Private Company A's sale of its collateral assets, of which approximately \$3.9 million in principal prepayments and \$0.1 million in related exit fees were allocated to us relating to our pro rata portion of the Private Company A Credit Facility and was applied to the outstanding principal balance. Following the prepayment, our outstanding principal balance under the Private Company A Credit Facility was approximately \$49.8 million. AFC Agent continues to monitor the court-appointed receivership installed to maintain the borrower's operations and maximize value for the benefit of its creditors.

On February 22, 2024, we announced that our Board unanimously approved a plan to spin-off our commercial real estate portfolio into an independent, publicly traded REIT, named Sunrise Realty Trust, Inc. See “—*Spin-off*” above.

In March 2024, we entered into a forbearance agreement with Subsidiary of Private Company G, pursuant to which we agreed to forbear from exercising certain remedies as a result of certain events of default under the credit agreement and under the forbearance agreement entered into with Subsidiary of Private Company G in September 2023. In exchange for such forbearance, Subsidiary of Private Company G agreed to, among other things, (i) contribute additional cash equity in an aggregate amount of not less than \$3.0 million before April 30, 2024, (ii) sell certain assets, the proceeds of which will be applied to pay down outstanding obligations under the credit agreement, (iii) enter into a management services agreement with a third party with respect to Subsidiary of Private Company G's operations in Pennsylvania, (iv) enter into a consulting or similar agreement with a third party with respect to Subsidiary of Private Company G's operations in New Jersey, and (v) deliver additional reporting requirements. In addition, the existing credit agreement was amended by the forbearance agreement entered into with Subsidiary of Private Company G to, for the remaining life of the loan (so long as Subsidiary of Private Company G complies with its obligations under the forbearance agreement), (a) remove the financial covenants, (b) revise the existing cash flow sweep such that 75% of excess cash flow is paid toward current interest, accrued interest, lender expenses and principal, (c) change the interest rate on the loans to 12.5% per annum, a minimum portion of which is payable in cash pursuant to the excess cash flow sweep, and the remainder of which, if any, is paid in kind, and (d) remove required amortization payments. We placed Subsidiary of Private Company G on non-accrual effective December 1, 2023 and will recognize income related to loan activity only upon receipt of cash.

In March 2024, we declared a regular cash dividend of \$0.48 per share of our common stock, relating to the first quarter of 2024, which will be paid on April 15, 2024 to shareholders of record as of March 31, 2024. The estimated aggregate amount of the regular cash dividend payment is approximately \$9.9 million.

Key Financial Measures and Indicators

As a commercial real estate finance company, we believe the key financial measures and indicators for our business are Distributable Earnings, book value per share and dividends declared per share.

Non-GAAP Metrics

Distributable Earnings

In addition to using certain financial metrics prepared in accordance with GAAP to evaluate our performance, we also use Distributable Earnings to evaluate our performance excluding the effects of certain transactions and GAAP adjustments we believe are not necessarily indicative of our current loan activity and operations. Distributable Earnings is a measure that is not prepared in accordance with GAAP. We use these non-GAAP financial measures both to explain our results to shareholders and the investment community and in the internal evaluation and management of our businesses. Our management believes that these non-GAAP financial measures and the information they provide are useful to investors since these measures permit investors and shareholders to assess the overall performance of our business using the same tools that our management uses to evaluate our past performance and prospects for future performance. The determination of Distributable Earnings is substantially similar to the determination of Core Earnings under our Management Agreement, provided that Core Earnings is a component of the calculation of any Incentive Compensation earned under the Management Agreement for the applicable time period, and thus Core Earnings is calculated without giving effect to Incentive Compensation expense, while the calculation of Distributable Earnings accounts for any Incentive Compensation earned for such time period.

We define Distributable Earnings as, for a specified period, the net income (loss) computed in accordance with GAAP, excluding (i) stock-based compensation expense, (ii) depreciation and amortization, (iii) any unrealized gains, losses or other non-cash items recorded in net income (loss) for the period, regardless of whether such items are included in other comprehensive income or loss, or in net income (loss); provided that Distributable Earnings does not exclude, in the case of investments with a deferred interest feature (such as OID, debt instruments with PIK interest and zero coupon securities), accrued income that we have not yet received in cash, (iv) increase (decrease) in provision for current expected credit losses, (v) TRS (income) loss, net of any dividends received from TRS and (vi) one-time events pursuant to changes in GAAP and certain non-cash charges, in each case after discussions between our Manager and our independent directors and after approval by a majority of such independent directors.

We believe providing Distributable Earnings on a supplemental basis to our net income as determined in accordance with GAAP is helpful to shareholders in assessing the overall performance of our business. As a REIT, we are required to distribute at least 90% of our annual REIT taxable income, subject to certain adjustments, and to pay tax at regular corporate rates to the extent that we annually distribute less than 100% of such taxable income. Given these requirements and our belief that dividends are generally one of the principal reasons that shareholders invest in our common stock, we generally intend to attempt to pay dividends to our shareholders in an amount at least equal to such REIT taxable income, if and to the extent authorized by our Board. Distributable Earnings is one of many factors considered by our Board in authorizing dividends and, while not a direct measure of net taxable income, over time, the measure can be considered a useful indicator of our dividends.

Distributable Earnings is a non-GAAP financial measure and should not be considered as a substitute for GAAP net income. We caution readers that our methodology for calculating Distributable Earnings may differ from the methodologies employed by other REITs to calculate the same or similar supplemental performance measures, and as a result, our reported Distributable Earnings may not be comparable to similar measures presented by other REITs.

The following table provides a reconciliation of GAAP net income to Distributable Earnings:

	Years ended December 31,	
	2023	2022
Net income	\$ 20,951,999	\$ 35,932,397
Adjustments to net income:		
Stock-based compensation expense	1,008,148	1,338,469
Depreciation and amortization	—	—
Unrealized (gains) losses, or other non-cash items	8,513,364	3,593,095
Increase (decrease) in provision for current expected credit losses	12,132,718	11,177,470
TRS (income) loss, net of dividends	(1,158,946)	(2,170,348)
One-time events pursuant to changes in GAAP and certain non-cash charges	—	—
Distributable earnings	\$ 41,447,283	\$ 49,871,083
Basic weighted average shares of common stock outstanding (in shares)	20,321,091	19,842,222
Distributable earnings per basic weighted average share	\$ 2.04	\$ 2.51

Book Value Per Share

We believe that book value per share is helpful to shareholders in evaluating our growth as we scale our equity capital base and continue to invest in our target investments. The book value per share of our common stock as of December 31, 2023 and 2022 was approximately \$15.64 and \$16.65, respectively.

Factors Impacting our Operating Results

The results of our operations are affected by a number of factors and primarily depend on, among other things, the level of our net interest margin, the market value of our assets and the supply of, and demand for, commercial real estate debt and other financial assets in the marketplace. Our net interest margin, which includes the accretion and amortization of OID, is recognized based on the contractual rate and the outstanding principal balance of the loans we originate. Interest rates will vary according to the type of loan, conditions in the financial markets, creditworthiness of our borrowers, competition and other factors, some of which cannot be predicted with any certainty. Our operating results may also be impacted by credit losses in excess of initial anticipations or unanticipated credit events experienced by our borrowers.

Results of Operations for the years ended December 31, 2023 and 2022

Our net income allocable to our common shareholders for the year ended December 31, 2023, was approximately \$21.0 million or \$1.02 per basic weighted average common share, compared to net income allocable to our common shareholders of approximately \$35.9 million or \$1.80 per basic weighted average common share for the year ended December 31, 2022.

Interest income decreased approximately \$(11.0) million, or (13.5)%, for the year ended December 31, 2023 as compared to the year ended December 31, 2022. This decrease was driven by lower fee income recognized of approximately (\$7.2) million, lower unused fees of approximately (\$1.5) million driven by less unfunded commitments, and lower OID income of approximately (\$5.6) million due to acceleration of unaccreted OID of prior year loan repayments, partially offset by an increase in interest income of approximately \$3.3 million driven by additional principal deployed as well as an increase in variable interest rates during the year ended December 31, 2023, as compared to the year ended December 31, 2022, respectively.

Interest expense decreased approximately \$(0.5) million, or (6.7)%, for the year ended December 31, 2023, as compared to the year ended December 31, 2022. The decrease was primarily due to lower interest incurred on the 2027 Senior Notes due to a weighted average decrease in the 2027 Senior Notes principal outstanding of approximately \$(8.1) million, or (8.1)%, for the year ended December 31, 2023, as compared to the year ended December 31, 2022. This relates to the repurchase of \$10.0 million of our 2027 Senior Notes during the year ended December 31, 2023. No repurchases took place during the year ended December 31, 2022.

Management fees increased approximately \$0.3 million, or 8.0%, for the year ended December 31, 2023, as compared to the year ended December 31, 2022. Incentive fees decreased approximately \$(2.0) million, or (16.0)%, for the year ended December 31, 2023, as compared to the year ended December 31, 2022, driven by lower Core Earnings (as defined in the Management Agreement).

General and administrative expenses increased approximately \$0.3 million, or 6.5%, for the year ended December 31, 2023, as compared to the year ended December 31, 2022. This increase was primarily due to severance expense incurred during the year ended December 31, 2023 attributable to the departure of our former Chief Financial Officer of approximately \$0.7 million. No severance expense was incurred during the year ended December 31, 2022.

Stock-based compensation decreased approximately \$(0.3) million, or (24.7)%, for the year ended December 31, 2023 as compared to the year ended December 31, 2022. This was primarily due to the majority of equity awards granted in January 2022 that vested immediately, as compared to the majority of equity awards granted in January 2023 with a three-year vesting period.

Professional fees decreased approximately \$(0.1) million, or (7.1)%, for the year ended December 31, 2023 as compared to the year ended December 31, 2022.

The net change in realized gains (losses) on investments for the year ended December 31, 2023 as compared to the year ended December 31, 2022 was approximately \$(1.8) million, driven by the realized loss of approximately \$(1.2) million related to Public Company A maturity and \$(0.1) million net loss related to Subsidiary of Public Company M sale during the year ended December 31, 2023 as compared to the realized gain of \$0.6 million related to Subsidiary of Public Company D, net of the realized loss related to the sale of Public Company G debt securities of \$(0.2) million during the year ended December 31, 2022.

Investments in loans held at fair value are recorded on the trade date at cost, which reflects the amount of principal funded net of any original issue discounts. An unrealized gain arises when the fair value of the loan portfolio exceeds its cost and an unrealized loss arises when the fair value of the loan portfolio is less than its cost. The net change in unrealized gain (loss) of approximately \$(8.5) million and \$(3.6) million for the years ended December 31, 2023 and 2022, respectively, was mainly driven by the net change in the valuation of the loans, which was impacted by changes in market yields, revenue multiples, and recovery rates.

The gain (loss) on extinguishment of debt was approximately \$2.0 million for the year ended December 31, 2023 as a result of the repurchase of \$10.0 million of our 2027 Senior Notes during the period. No repurchases took place during the year ended December 31, 2022.

Provision for Current Expected Credit Losses

The provision for current expected credit losses increased approximately \$1.0 million, or 8.5%, for the year ended December 31, 2023 as compared to the year ended December 31, 2022. The balance as of December 31, 2023 was approximately \$26.4 million, or 8.71%, of our total loans held at carrying value and loan receivable held at carrying value balance of approximately \$303.3 million and was bifurcated between (i) the current expected credit loss reserve (contra-asset) related to outstanding balances on loans held at carrying value and loan receivable held at carrying value of approximately \$26.3 million and (ii) a liability for unfunded commitments of approximately \$0.1 million. The balance as of December 31, 2022 was approximately \$14.3 million, or 4.97%, of our total loans held at carrying value and loan receivable held at carrying value balance of approximately \$287.4 million and was bifurcated between (i) the current expected credit loss reserve (contra-asset) related to outstanding balances on loans held at carrying value and loan receivable held at carrying value of approximately \$13.5 million and (ii) a liability for unfunded commitments of approximately \$0.8 million. The liability is based on the unfunded portion of loan commitments over the full contractual period over which we are exposed to credit risk through a current obligation to extend credit. Management considered the likelihood that funding will occur, and if funded, the expected credit loss on the funded portion. We continuously evaluate the credit quality of each loan by assessing the risk factors of each loan. The change in the provision for current expected credit losses for the year ended December 31, 2023 compared to the year ended December 31, 2022 was due to changes in macroeconomic factors, changes to the loan portfolio including new commitments and repayments, and changes in other data points we use in estimating the reserve.

Loan Portfolio

As of December 31, 2023, our portfolio was comprised of loans to 12 different borrowers. The aggregate originated commitment under these loans was approximately \$431.2 million and outstanding principal was approximately \$388.3 million as of December 31, 2023. As of December 31, 2023, our portfolio had a weighted-average estimated YTM of approximately 21% and was secured by various types of assets of our borrowers, including real property and personal property, such as the value associated with licenses (where applicable), equipment, and other assets to the extent permitted by applicable laws and the regulations governing our borrowers. In some cases, we may receive the option to assign the right (each an “Assigned Right”) to acquire warrants and/or equity of the borrower as part of the consideration for us to provide a loan to such borrower, which we promptly sell and recognize as additional OID. During the year ended December 31, 2023 the Company neither received nor sold any Assigned Right.

The below table summarizes our portfolio as of December 31, 2023, unless otherwise specified. Borrower names have been kept confidential due to confidentiality agreement obligations.

Loan Names	Original Funding	Loan Maturity	AFCG Loan, net of		% of Total	Principal Balance	Cash Interest	Fixed/ Floating	Amortization During	YTM
	Date ⁽¹⁾		Syndication	AFCG	as of 12/31/2023	Rate	PIK		Term	
Public Co. A - Equipment Loans ⁽⁴⁾	8/5/2019	3/31/2025	\$ 4,000,000	0.9%	\$ 2,041,744	12.0%	N/A	Fixed	Yes	9%
Private Co. A ⁽⁵⁾	5/8/2020	5/8/2024	77,785,000	18.0%	53,364,532	13.0%	2.7%	Fixed	Yes	26%
Private Co. B ⁽⁶⁾	9/10/2020	9/1/2023	16,402,988	3.8%	18,518,870	14.7%	4.0%	Fixed	Yes	30%
Private Co. C	11/5/2020	12/1/2025	24,000,000	5.6%	9,954,630	17.5%	2.0%	Floating	Yes	26%
Sub of Private Co. G ⁽⁷⁾	4/30/2021	5/1/2026	73,500,000	17.0%	79,215,888	18.8%	N/A	Floating	Yes	20%
Private Co. I ⁽⁸⁾	7/14/2021	8/1/2026	3,500,298	0.8%	3,767,454	17.4%	4.5%	Floating	Yes	18%
Private Co. J	8/30/2021	9/1/2025	23,000,000	5.3%	21,713,695	17.4%	2.0%	Floating	Yes	25%
Private Co. K ⁽⁹⁾	4/28/2022	5/3/2027	13,229,626	3.1%	13,445,762	17.4%	2.0%	Floating	Yes	27%
Private Co. L	4/20/2022	5/1/2026	63,000,000	14.6%	53,000,000	13.7%	N/A	Floating	Yes	18%
Sub of Public Co. H	12/16/2021	1/1/2026	84,000,000	19.5%	84,000,000	14.3%	N/A	Floating	No	19%
Sub of Public Co. M	8/26/2022	8/27/2025	18,822,000	4.4%	18,822,000	9.5%	N/A	Fixed	No	18%
Private Co. M ⁽¹⁰⁾	7/31/2023	7/31/2026	30,000,000	7.0%	30,457,500	N/A	9.0%	Fixed	Yes	18%
Subtotal ⁽¹¹⁾			\$ 431,239,912	100.0%	\$ 388,302,075	14.0%	1.5%			21%
										Wtd Average

(1) All loans originated prior to July 31, 2020 were purchased from an affiliated entity at fair value which approximated accreted and/or amortized cost plus accrued interest on July 31, 2020.

(2) Estimated YTM includes a variety of fees and features that affect the total yield, which may include, but is not limited to, OID, exit fees, prepayment fees, unused fees and contingent features. OID is recognized as a discount to the funded loan principal and is accreted to income over the term of the loan. Loans originated before July 31, 2020 were acquired by us, net of unaccreted OID, which we accrete to income over the remaining term of the loan. In some cases, additional OID is recognized from additional purchase discounts attributed to the fair value of equity positions that were separated from the loans prior to our acquisition of such loans.

The estimated YTM calculations require management to make estimates and assumptions, including, but not limited to, the timing and amounts of loan draws on delayed draw loans, the timing and collectability of exit fees, the probability and timing of prepayments and the probability of contingent features occurring. For example, certain credit agreements contain provisions pursuant to which certain PIK interest rates and fees earned by us under such credit agreements will decrease upon the satisfaction of certain specified criteria which we believe may improve the risk profile of the applicable borrower. To be conservative, we have not assumed any prepayment penalties or early payoffs in our estimated YTM calculation. Estimated YTM is based on current management estimates and assumptions, which may change. Estimated YTM is calculated using the interest rate as of December 31, 2023 applied through maturity. Actual results could differ from those estimates and assumptions.

(3) Estimated YTM for the loan with Private Company A is enhanced by purchase discounts attributed to the fair value of equity warrants that were separated from the loan prior to our acquisition of such loan. The purchase discounts accrete to income over the respective remaining terms of the applicable loan.

(4) As of October 1, 2022, Public Company A equipment loan receivable was placed on non-accrual status.

(5) Cash interest and PIK interest rates for Private Company A represent a blended rate of differing cash interest and PIK interest rates applicable to each of the tranches to which the Company is a lender under the senior secured term loan credit facility with Private Company A (as may be amended, restated, and supplemented or otherwise modified from time to time, the “Private Company A Credit Facility”). In October 2023, AFC Agent delivered a notice of default to Private Company A based on certain financial and other covenant defaults and began charging additional default interest of 5.0%, beginning as of July 1, 2023, in accordance with the terms of the Private Company A Credit Facility.

- (6) Cash interest and PIK interest rates for Private Co. B are weighted average rates. As amended by the forbearance and modification agreement entered into with Private Company B in February 2023, the default interest rate of 4.0% is applicable from January 15, 2023 and is paid in kind.
- (7) As amended, 75.0% of Subsidiary of Private Company G's monthly cash interest was paid in kind from December 1, 2022 to May 1, 2023. Subsidiary of Private Company G was placed on non-accrual status from June 1, 2023 to August 31, 2023. In September 2023, a forbearance agreement was entered into with Subsidiary of Private Company G. Subsidiary of Private Company G paid September, October, and November interest in accordance with the terms of the forbearance agreement, which was due October 1, 2023, November 1, 2023, and December 1, 2023, respectively, and the credit facility was restored to accrual status until December 1, 2023. Subsidiary of Private Company G did not make its cash interest payment due January 1, 2024 in arrears for the month of December, and the Company placed the borrower on non-accrual as of December 1, 2023.
- (8) As amended, an additional 5.0% default rate has been applied since May 8, 2023 and the agent on this credit facility has since initiated a foreclosure proceeding. As of May 1, 2023, this loan was placed on non-accrual status.
- (9) As of December 1, 2023, Private Company K was placed on non-accrual status.
- (10) Quarterly cash interest is paid in kind from closing to February 1, 2024 and then payable in cash thereafter.
- (11) The interest and PIK subtotal rates are weighted average rates.

Based on current estimates, we intend to target over \$100 million in originations with new and existing borrowers and expect over \$50 million in repayments from borrowers, in each case for the fiscal year 2024. However, our goals and expectations are preliminary and may change. See "Special Note Regarding Forward-Looking Statements" and "Risk Factors."

As of December 31, 2023 and 2022, our portfolio included two and three loans held at fair value, respectively. The aggregate originated commitment under these loans was approximately \$94.2 million and \$104.3 million, respectively, and outstanding principal was approximately \$71.9 million and \$102.4 million as of December 31, 2023 and 2022, respectively. For the year ended December 31, 2023, we funded approximately \$1.9 million of additional principal and had approximately \$34.9 million of principal repayments of loans held at fair value. As of December 31, 2023 and 2022, none of our loans held at fair value had floating interest rates.

The following tables summarize our loans held at fair value as of December 31, 2023 and 2022:

As of December 31, 2023				
	Fair Value ⁽¹⁾	Carrying Value ⁽²⁾	Outstanding Principal ⁽²⁾	Weighted Average Remaining Life (Years) ⁽³⁾⁽⁴⁾
Senior term loans	\$ 61,720,705	\$ 71,644,003	\$ 71,883,402	0.4
Total loans held at fair value	\$ 61,720,705	\$ 71,644,003	\$ 71,883,402	0.4
As of December 31, 2022				
	Fair Value ⁽¹⁾	Carrying Value ⁽²⁾	Outstanding Principal ⁽²⁾	Weighted Average Remaining Life (Years) ⁽³⁾
Senior term loans	\$ 99,226,051	\$ 100,635,985	\$ 102,376,546	1.2
Total loans held at fair value	\$ 99,226,051	\$ 100,635,985	\$ 102,376,546	1.2

(1) Refer to Note 14 to our consolidated financial statements titled "Fair Value".

(2) The difference between the Carrying Value and the Outstanding Principal amount of the loans consists of unaccreted OID and loan origination costs.

(3) Weighted average remaining life is calculated based on the fair value of the loans as of December 31, 2023 and 2022.

(4) As of December 31, 2023, the weighted average remaining life only reflects the remaining life of the Private Company A Credit Facility.

The following table presents changes in loans held at fair value as of and for the year ended December 31, 2023:

	Principal	Original Issue Discount	Unrealized Gains (Losses)	Fair Value
Total loans held at fair value at December 31, 2022	\$ 102,376,546	\$ (1,740,561)	\$ (1,409,934)	\$ 99,226,051
Realized gains (losses) on loans at fair value, net	(1,213,416)	—	—	(1,213,416)
Change in unrealized gains (losses) on loans at fair value, net	—	—	(8,513,364)	(8,513,364)
New fundings	1,881,840	—	—	1,881,840
Accretion of original issue discount	—	1,501,162	—	1,501,162
Loan repayments	(34,900,946)	—	—	(34,900,946)
PIK interest	3,739,378	—	—	3,739,378
Total loans held at fair value at December 31, 2023	\$ 71,883,402	\$ (239,399)	\$ (9,923,298)	\$ 61,720,705

During the year ended December 31, 2023, the credit facility with Public Company A matured without repayment. The agent on the credit facility has placed the borrower in default, and we recorded a realized loss of approximately \$(1.2) million.

As of December 31, 2023 and 2022, our portfolio did not include any debt securities. For the year ended December 31, 2023, we had no sales of debt securities. For the year ended December 31, 2022, the realized loss on the sale of debt securities was approximately \$(0.2) million.

As of December 31, 2023 and 2022, our portfolio included nine loans held at carrying value. The aggregate originated commitment under these loans was approximately \$333.1 million and \$338.9 million, respectively, and outstanding principal was approximately \$314.4 million and \$296.6 million, respectively, as of December 31, 2023 and 2022. During the year ended December 31, 2023, we funded approximately \$59.1 million of new loans and additional principal, had approximately \$23.9 million of principal repayments of loans held at carrying value and sold \$24.6 million in the aggregate of the Company's investment in Subsidiary of Public Company M and Private Company I. As of December 31, 2023 and 2022, approximately 84% and 73%, respectively, of our loans held at carrying value had floating interest rates. As of December 31, 2023, these floating benchmark rates included one-month Secured Overnight Financing Rate ("SOFR") subject to a weighted average floor of 3.3% and quoted at 5.4% and U.S. prime rate subject to a weighted average floor of 5.0% and quoted at 8.5%.

The following tables summarize our loans held at carrying value as of December 31, 2023 and 2022:

	As of December 31, 2023			
	Outstanding Principal ⁽¹⁾	Original Issue Discount	Carrying Value ⁽¹⁾	Weighted Average Remaining Life (Years) ⁽²⁾
Senior term loans	\$ 314,376,929	\$ (13,111,531)	\$ 301,265,398	2.2
Total loans held at carrying value	\$ 314,376,929	\$ (13,111,531)	\$ 301,265,398	2.2

	As of December 31, 2022			
	Outstanding Principal ⁽¹⁾	Original Issue Discount	Carrying Value ⁽¹⁾	Weighted Average Remaining Life (Years) ⁽²⁾
Senior term loans	\$ 296,584,529	\$ (11,407,417)	\$ 285,177,112	3.1
Total loans held at carrying value	\$ 296,584,529	\$ (11,407,417)	\$ 285,177,112	3.1

(1) The difference between the Carrying Value and the Outstanding Principal amount of the loans consists of unaccreted OID and loan origination costs.

(2) Weighted average remaining life is calculated based on the carrying value of the loans as of December 31, 2023 and 2022.

The following table presents changes in loans held at carrying value as of and for the year ended December 31, 2023:

	Principal	Original Issue Discount	Carrying Value
Total loans held at carrying value at December 31, 2022	\$ 296,584,529	\$ (11,407,417)	\$ 285,177,112
New fundings	59,088,860	(7,713,475)	51,375,385
Accretion of original issue discount	—	4,642,670	4,642,670
Loan repayments	(18,600,105)	—	(18,600,105)
Sale of loans	(24,606,578)	1,366,691	(23,239,887)
PIK interest	7,192,354	—	7,192,354
Loan amortization payments	(5,282,131)	—	(5,282,131)
Total loans held at carrying value at December 31, 2023	\$ 314,376,929	\$ (13,111,531)	\$ 301,265,398

As of December 31, 2023 and 2022, our portfolio included one loan receivable held at carrying value. The originated commitment under this loan was \$4.0 million and outstanding principal was approximately \$2.0 million and \$2.2 million as of December 31, 2023 and 2022, respectively. During the year ended December 31, 2023, we received approximately \$0.2 million of principal repayments of loan receivable held at carrying value.

The following table presents changes in loans receivable as of and for the year ended December 31, 2023:

	Principal	Original Issue Discount	Carrying Value
Total loan receivable held at carrying value at December 31, 2022	\$ 2,222,339	\$ (1,686)	\$ 2,220,653
Loan repayments	(180,595)	—	(180,595)
Total loan receivable held at carrying value at December 31, 2023	\$ 2,041,744	\$ (1,686)	\$ 2,040,058

Liquidity and Capital Resources

Liquidity is a measure of our ability to meet potential cash requirements, including ongoing commitments to repay borrowings, fund and maintain our assets and operations, make distributions to our shareholders and meet other general business needs. We use significant cash to purchase our target investments, repay principal and interest on our borrowings, make distributions to our shareholders and fund our operations. The sources of financing for our target investments are described below.

Our primary sources of cash generally consist of unused borrowing capacity under our Revolving Credit Facility, the net proceeds of future debt or equity offerings, including in connection with the ATM Program, payments of principal and interest we receive on our portfolio of assets and cash generated from our operating results.

Our net cash provided by operating activities for the year ended December 31, 2023 of approximately \$21.2 million was less than our dividend payments of \$42.5 million made during the same period due to earned OID of \$6.1 million, gain on extinguishment of debt of \$2.0 million, the net change in interest reserve of \$4.7 million and PIK repayments of \$1.5 million related to the repayment from Private Company I and Private Company A during such period. OID relates to cash withheld by the Company upon funding of its investments and is included under the 'Supplemental disclosure of non-cash activity' on the Consolidated Statements of Cash Flows.

As of December 31, 2023 and 2022, all of our cash was unrestricted and totaled approximately \$121.6 million and \$140.4 million, respectively.

As of December 31, 2023, we believe that our cash on hand, capacity available under our line of credit and cash flows from operations will be sufficient to satisfy the operating requirements of our business through at least the next twelve months.

Capital Markets

Our Shelf Registration Statement became effective on April 18, 2022, allowing us to sell, from time to time in one or more offerings, up to \$1.0 billion of our securities, including common stock, preferred stock, debt securities, warrants and rights (including as part of a unit) to purchase shares of our common stock or preferred stock. The specifics of any future offerings, along with the use of proceeds of any securities offered, will be described in detail in a prospectus supplement, or other offering materials, at the time of any offering. We may also access liquidity through our ATM Program, which was established in April 2022, pursuant to which we may sell, from time to time, up to \$75.0 million of our common stock. During the year ended December 31, 2023, we did not sell any shares of our common stock under the Sales Agreement. During the year ended December 31, 2022, we sold an aggregate of 621,398 shares of our common stock under the Sales Agreement at an average price of \$18.30 per share generating net proceeds of approximately \$10.4 million.

On June 13, 2023, our Board authorized the Repurchase Program. The timing, price, and volume of repurchases will be based on our stock price, general market conditions, applicable legal requirements and other factors. The repurchase of our common stock may be made from time to time in the open market, in privately negotiated transactions or otherwise in compliance with Rule 10b-18 and Rule 10b5-1 under the Exchange Act. We expect to finance any share repurchases under the Repurchase Program using cash on hand, capacity available under our line of credit and cash flows from operations. The Repurchase Program may be discontinued, modified or suspended at any time. During the year ended December 31, 2023, the Company did not repurchase any shares of its common stock pursuant to the Repurchase Program.

We may seek to raise further equity capital and issue debt securities in order to fund our future investments in loans. As the cannabis industry continues to evolve and to the extent that additional states legalize cannabis, the demand for capital continues to increase as operators seek to enter and build out new markets. We expect the principal amount of the loans we originate for cannabis operators to increase. We also expect our expanded investment focus to require additional capital. As a result, we expect we will need to raise additional equity and/or debt funds to increase our liquidity in the near future.

Revolving Credit Facility

On April 29, 2022, we entered into a Revolving Credit Agreement by and among us, the other loan parties from time to time party thereto, the lenders party thereto, and the lead arranger, bookrunner and administrative agent party thereto, pursuant to which, we obtained a \$60.0 million senior secured revolving credit facility. As of December 31, 2023, we had \$42.0 million of borrowings outstanding and \$18.0 million of availability under our Revolving Credit Agreement, which may be borrowed, repaid and redrawn, subject to a borrowing base based on eligible loan obligations held by us and subject to the satisfaction of other conditions provided under the Revolving Credit Facility.

The Revolving Credit Facility contains aggregate commitments of \$60.0 million from two FDIC-insured banking institutions, which may be increased to up to \$100.0 million in aggregate (subject to available borrowing base and additional commitments), and contains a maturity date of April 29, 2025. Interest is payable on the Revolving Credit Facility at the greater of (1) the applicable base rate plus 0.50% and (2) 4.50%, as provided in the Revolving Credit Agreement, payable in cash in arrears. Upon entering into the Revolving Credit Agreement, we incurred a one-time commitment fee expense of approximately \$0.5 million, which is amortized over the life of the facility. Commencing on the six-month anniversary of the closing date, the Revolving Credit Facility has an unused line fee of 0.25% per annum, payable semi-annually in arrears, which is included within interest expense in our consolidated statements of operations. Based on the terms of the Revolving Credit Agreement, the unused line fee is waived if our average cash balance exceeds the minimum balance required per the Revolving Credit Agreement. During the years ended December 31, 2023 and 2022, we incurred approximately \$47.9 thousand and \$25.0 thousand in unused line fees, respectively.

Our obligations under the Revolving Credit Facility are secured by certain assets of ours comprising of or relating to loan obligations designated for inclusion in the borrowing base. In addition, we are subject to various financial and other covenants, including: (1) liquidity of at least \$5.0 million, (2) annual debt service coverage of at least 1.50 to 1.0 and (3) secured debt not to exceed 25% of total consolidated assets of us and our subsidiaries. To the best of our knowledge, as of December 31, 2023, we were in compliance in all material respects with all covenants contained in our Revolving Credit Agreement.

Termination of AFC Finance Revolving Credit Facility

On April 29, 2022, upon our entry into the Revolving Credit Facility, we terminated that certain revolving credit facility with AFC Finance, LLC. In connection with the termination, we paid the remaining amount of the commitment fee outstanding of approximately \$0.1 million and accelerated the remaining deferred financing costs of approximately \$0.1 million in the second quarter of 2022. There were no other payments, premiums or penalties that were required to be paid in connection with the termination.

2027 Senior Notes

On November 3, 2021, we issued \$100.0 million in aggregate principal amount of the 2027 Senior Notes. The 2027 Senior Notes accrue interest at a rate of 5.75% per annum. Interest on the 2027 Senior Notes is due semi-annually on May 1 and November 1 of each year, which began on May 1, 2022. The net proceeds from the issuance of the 2027 Senior Notes were approximately \$97.0 million, after deducting the initial purchasers' discounts and commissions and estimated offering fees and expenses payable by us. We used the net proceeds from the issuance of the 2027 Senior Notes (i) to fund loans related to unfunded commitments to existing borrowers, (ii) to originate and participate in commercial loans to companies operating in the cannabis industry that are consistent with our investment strategy and (iii) for working capital and other general corporate purposes. The terms of the 2027 Senior Notes are governed by the Indenture. Under the Indenture governing the 2027 Senior Notes, we are required to cause all of our existing and future subsidiaries to guarantee the 2027 Senior Notes, other than certain immaterial subsidiaries as set forth in the Indenture. Subsequent to the transfer of our investment in the senior secured loan to Private Company I to TRS1 on April 1, 2022, TRS1 was added as a subsidiary guarantor under the Indenture.

Prior to February 1, 2027, we may redeem the 2027 Senior Notes in whole or in part, at a price equal to the greater of 100% of the principal amount of the 2027 Senior Notes being redeemed or a make-whole premium set forth in the Indenture, plus accrued and unpaid interest thereon to, but excluding, the applicable redemption date. On or after February 1, 2027, we may redeem the 2027 Senior Notes in whole or in part at a price equal to 100% of the principal amount of the 2027 Senior Notes being redeemed, plus accrued and unpaid interest, if any, to, but excluding, the applicable redemption date. The Indenture also requires us to offer to purchase all of the 2027 Senior Notes at a purchase price equal to 101% of the principal amount of the 2027 Senior Notes, plus accrued and unpaid interest if a "change of control triggering event" (as defined in the Indenture) occurs.

The Indenture governing the 2027 Senior Notes contains customary terms and restrictions, subject to a number of exceptions and qualifications, including restrictions on our ability to (1) incur additional indebtedness unless the Annual Debt Service Charge (as defined in the Indenture) is no less than 1.5 to 1.0, (2) incur or maintain total debt in an aggregate principal amount greater than 60% of our consolidated Total Assets (as defined in the Indenture), (3) incur or maintain secured debt in an aggregate principal amount greater than 25% of our consolidated Total Assets (as defined in the Indenture); and (4) merge, consolidate or sell substantially all of our assets. In addition, the Indenture also provides for customary events of default. If any event of default occurs, any amount then outstanding under the Indenture may immediately become due and payable. These events of default are subject to a number of important exceptions and qualifications set forth in the Indenture. We were in compliance with the terms of the Indenture as of the date of this quarterly report.

During the year ended December 31, 2023, we repurchased \$10.0 million in principal amount of our 2027 Senior Notes at 77.4% of par value, plus accrued interest. This resulted in a gain on extinguishment of debt of approximately \$2.0 million, recorded within the consolidated statements of operations. Following this transaction, as of December 31, 2023, we had \$90.0 million in principal amount of the 2027 Senior Notes outstanding.

The table below sets forth the material terms of our outstanding senior notes as of the date of this Annual Report:

Senior Notes	Issue Date	Amount Outstanding	Interest Rate Coupon	Maturity Date	Interest Due Dates	Optional Redemption Date
2027 Senior Notes	November 3, 2021	\$90.0 million	5.75%	May 1, 2027	May 1 and November 1	February 1, 2027

Other Credit Facilities, Warehouse Facilities and Repurchase Agreements

In the future, we may also use other sources of financing to fund the origination or acquisition of our target investments, including other credit facilities and other secured and unsecured forms of borrowing. These financings may be collateralized or non-collateralized and may involve one or more lenders. We expect that these facilities will typically have maturities ranging from two to five years and may accrue interest at either fixed or floating rates.

Debt Service

As of December 31, 2023, we believe that our cash on hand, capacity available under our Revolving Credit Facility, and cash flows from operations will be sufficient to service our outstanding debt during the next twelve months.

Cash Flows

The following table sets forth changes in cash and cash equivalents for the years ended December 31, 2023 and 2022:

	December 31,	
	2023	2022
Net income	\$ 20,951,999	\$ 35,932,397
Adjustments to reconcile net income to net cash (used in) provided by operating activities and changes in operating assets and liabilities	276,935	(4,610,424)
Net cash provided by (used in) operating activities	21,228,934	31,321,973
Net cash provided by (used in) investing activities	28,519,379	(16,343,685)
Net cash (used in) provided by financing activities	(68,494,701)	16,148,505
Change in cash and cash equivalents	\$ (18,746,388)	\$ 31,126,793

Net Cash Provided by (Used in) Operating Activities

Net cash provided by operating activities during the year ended December 31, 2023 was approximately \$21.2 million, compared to approximately \$31.3 million for the same period in 2022. The decrease of approximately \$(10.1) million during the year ended December 31, 2022 to December 31, 2023 was primarily due to a decrease in net income of approximately \$(15.0) million, increase in PIK interest of approximately \$(2.6) million, decrease in interest reserve of approximately \$(2.7) million, offset by an increase in the change in unrealized (gains) losses on loans held at fair value of approximately \$4.9 million and a decrease in accretion of OID of approximately \$5.6 million, respectively.

Net Cash Provided by (Used in) Investing Activities

Net cash provided by investing activities during the year ended December 31, 2023 was approximately \$28.5 million, compared to net cash used in investing activities of approximately \$(16.3) million for the same period in 2022. The increase of net cash provided by investing activities of approximately \$44.9 million during the year ended December 31, 2022 to December 31, 2023 was primarily due to a decrease in issuance and fundings on loans of approximately \$111.1 million, an increase in proceeds from the sale of loans of approximately \$10.7 million, a decrease in principal repayments of loans of approximately \$(61.1) million, offset by a decrease in the sale of available-for-sale debt securities of \$(15.9) million, respectively.

Net Cash Provided by (Used in) Financing Activities

Net cash used in financing activities during the year ended December 31, 2023 was approximately \$(68.5) million, compared to approximately \$16.1 million for the same period in 2022. The decrease of approximately \$(84.6) million during the year ended December 31, 2022 to December 31, 2023 was primarily due to a decrease in proceeds from the sale of common stock of approximately \$(75.1) million, repayments on the 2027 Senior Notes of approximately \$(7.7) million, an increase in repayments on the Revolving Credit Facility of approximately \$(6.0) million, offset by an increase in borrowings on the Revolving Credit Facility of \$3.0 million, respectively.

Contractual Obligations, Other Commitments, and Off-Balance Sheet Arrangements

Our contractual obligations as of December 31, 2023 are as follows:

	As of December 31, 2023				
	Less than 1 year	1-3 years	3-5 years	More than 5 years	Total
Unfunded commitments	\$ 10,000,000	\$ —	\$ —	\$ —	\$ 10,000,000
Total	\$ 10,000,000	\$ —	\$ —	\$ —	\$ 10,000,000

As of December 31, 2023, all unfunded commitments related to our total loan commitments and were available for funding in less than one year.

We also had the following contractual obligations as of December 31, 2023 relating to the 2027 Senior Notes:

	As of December 31, 2023				
	Less than 1 year	1-3 years	3-5 years	More than 5 years	Total
Contractual obligations ⁽¹⁾	\$ 5,175,000	\$ 10,350,000	\$ 92,587,500	\$ —	\$ 108,112,500
Total	\$ 5,175,000	\$ 10,350,000	\$ 92,587,500	\$ —	\$ 108,112,500

(1) Amounts include projected interest payments during the period based on interest rates in effect as of December 31, 2023.

We may enter into certain contracts that may contain a variety of indemnification obligations. The maximum potential future payment amounts we could be required to pay under these indemnification obligations may be unlimited.

Off-balance sheet commitments consist of unfunded commitments on delayed draw loans. Other than as set forth in this Annual Report, we do not have any relationships with unconsolidated entities or financial partnerships, such as entities often referred to as structured investment vehicles, special purpose entities or variable interest entities, established to facilitate off-balance sheet arrangements or other contractually narrow or limited purposes. Further, we have not guaranteed any obligations of unconsolidated entities or entered into any commitment or intend to provide additional funding to any such entities.

Leverage Policies

We currently do not intend to have leverage of more than one times equity. While we are required to maintain our leverage ratio in compliance with the 2027 Senior Notes Indenture, we expect to employ prudent amounts of leverage and, when appropriate, to use debt as a means of providing additional funds for the acquisition of loans, to refinance existing debt or for general corporate purposes. Leverage is primarily used to provide capital for forward commitments until additional equity is raised or additional medium- to long-term financing is arranged. This policy is subject to change by management and our Board.

Dividends

We have elected to be taxed as a REIT for United States federal income tax purposes and, as such, intend to annually distribute to our shareholders at least 90% of our REIT taxable income, prior to the deduction for dividends paid and excluding our net capital gain. If we distribute less than 100% of our REIT taxable income in any tax year (taking into account any distributions made in a subsequent tax year under Sections 857(b)(9) or 858 of the Code), we will pay tax at regular corporate rates on that undistributed portion. Furthermore, if we distribute less than the sum of (i) 85% of our ordinary income for the calendar year, (ii) 95% of our capital gain net income for the calendar year and (iii) any undistributed shortfall from our prior calendar year (the "Required Distribution") to our shareholders during any calendar year (including any distributions declared by the last day of the calendar year but paid in the subsequent year), then we are required to pay non-deductible excise tax equal to 4% of any shortfall between the Required Distribution and the amount that was actually distributed. Any of these taxes would decrease cash available for distribution to our shareholders. The 90% distribution requirement does not require the distribution of net capital gains. However, if we elect to retain any of our net capital gain for any tax year, we must notify our shareholders and pay tax at regular corporate rates on the retained net capital gain. The shareholders must include their proportionate share of the retained net capital gain in their taxable income for the tax year, and they are deemed to have paid the REIT's tax on their proportionate share of the retained capital gain. Furthermore, such retained capital gain may be subject to the nondeductible 4% excise tax. If we determine that our estimated current year taxable income (including net capital gain) will be in excess of estimated dividend distributions (including capital gains dividends) for the current year from such income, we will accrue excise tax on a portion of the estimated excess taxable income as such taxable income is earned.

To the extent that our cash available for distribution is less than the amount required to be distributed under the REIT provisions of the Code, we may be required to fund distributions from working capital or through equity, equity-related or debt financings or, in certain circumstances, asset sales, as to which our ability to consummate transactions in a timely manner on favorable terms, or at all, cannot be assured, or we may make a portion of the Required Distribution in the form of a taxable stock distribution or distribution of debt securities.

Critical Accounting Policies and Estimates

Our consolidated financial statements are prepared in accordance with GAAP which requires the use of estimates and assumptions that involve the exercise of judgment as to future uncertainties. In accordance with SEC guidance, the following discussion addresses the accounting policies that we believe apply to us based on the nature of our initial operations. Our most critical accounting policies involve decisions and assessments that could affect our reported assets and liabilities, as well as our reported revenues and expenses. We believe that all of the decisions and assessments used to prepare our consolidated financial statements are based upon reasonable assumptions given the information available to us at that time. Those accounting policies and estimates that we believe are most critical to an investor's understanding of our financial results and condition and require complex management judgment are discussed below.

Loans Held at Fair Value

We originate commercial real estate debt and related instruments generally to be held for investment. Although we generally hold our target investments as long-term loans, we may occasionally classify some of our loans as held for sale. We may carry our loans at fair value or amortized cost in our consolidated balance sheet. As of December 31, 2023 and 2022, two and three loans held for investment were carried at fair value within loans held at fair value in our consolidated balance sheets, respectively, with changes in fair value recorded through earnings. Refer to Note 14 to our consolidated financial statements titled "*Fair Value*" for more information on the valuations of the loans.

Loans are generally collateralized by real estate, equipment, value associated with licenses (where applicable) and/or other assets of borrowers to the extent permitted by applicable laws and the regulations governing such borrowers. The extent of any credit deterioration associated with the performance and/or value of the underlying collateral property and the financial and operating capability of the borrower could impact the expected amounts received. We monitor performance of our loans held for investment portfolio under the following methodology: (i) borrower review, which analyzes the borrower's ability to execute on its original business plan, reviews its financial condition, assesses pending litigation and considers its general level of responsiveness and cooperation; (ii) economic review, which considers underlying collateral (i.e., leasing performance, unit sales and cash flow of the collateral and its ability to cover debt service, as well as the residual loan balance at maturity); (iii) property review, which considers current environmental risks, changes in insurance costs or coverage, current site visibility, capital expenditures and market perception; and (iv) market review, which analyzes the collateral from a supply and demand perspective of similar property types, as well as from a capital markets perspective.

We accrete or amortize any discounts or premiums on loans held for investment over the life of the related loan held for investment utilizing the effective interest method.

We follow Accounting Standards Codification ("ASC") 825-10, Recognition and Measurement of Financial Assets and Financial Liabilities ("ASC 825-10"), which provides companies the option to report selected financial assets and liabilities at fair value. ASC 825-10 also establishes presentation and disclosure requirements designed to facilitate comparisons between companies that choose different measurement attributes for similar types of assets and liabilities and to more easily understand the effect of the company's choice to use fair value on its earnings. ASC 825-10 also requires entities to display the fair value of the selected assets and liabilities on the face of the balance sheet. We have elected the ASC 825-10 option to report selected financial assets and liabilities at fair value.

We also follow ASC 820-10, Fair Value Measurements and Disclosures ("ASC 820-10"), which defines fair value, establishes a framework for measuring fair value in accordance with GAAP and expands disclosure of fair value measurements. ASC 820-10 determines fair value to be the price that would be received for an investment in a current sale, which assumes an orderly transaction between market participants on the measurement date. ASC 820-10 requires us to assume that the loan is sold in its principal market to market participants or, in the absence of a principal market, the most advantageous market, which may be a hypothetical market. Market participants are defined as buyers and sellers in the principal or most advantageous market that are independent, knowledgeable, and willing and able to transact. In accordance with ASC 820-10, we have considered its principal market as the market in which we exit our investments with the greatest volume and level of activity. ASC 820-10 specifies a hierarchy of valuation techniques based on whether the inputs to those valuation techniques are observable or unobservable. In accordance with ASC 820-10, these inputs are summarized in the three broad levels listed below:

- Level 1—Valuations based on quoted prices in active markets for identical assets or liabilities that we have the ability to access.
- Level 2—Valuations based on quoted prices in markets that are not active or for which all significant inputs are observable, either directly or indirectly.
- Level 3—Valuations based on inputs that are unobservable and significant to the overall fair value measurement.

If inputs used to measure fair value fall into different levels of the fair value hierarchy, a loan's level is based on the lowest level of input that is significant to the fair value measurement. Our assessment of the significance of a particular input to the fair value measurement in its entirety requires judgment and considers factors specific to the loan. This includes loans that are valued using "bid" and "ask" prices obtained from independent third-party pricing services or directly from brokers.

Financial instruments with readily available quoted prices generally will have a higher degree of market price observability and a lesser degree of judgment inherent in measuring fair value. As such, we obtain and analyze readily available market quotations provided by pricing vendors and brokers for all of our loans for which quotations are available. In determining the fair value of a particular loan, pricing vendors and brokers use observable market information, including both binding and non-binding indicative quotations.

GAAP requires disclosure of fair value information about financial and nonfinancial assets and liabilities, whether or not recognized in the consolidated financial statements, for which it is practical to estimate the value. In cases where quoted market prices are not available, fair values are based upon the application of discount rates to estimated future cash flows using market yields, or other valuation methodologies. Any changes to the valuation methodology will be reviewed by our management to ensure the changes are appropriate. The methods used may produce a fair value calculation that is not indicative of net realizable value or reflective of future fair values. Furthermore, while we anticipate that the valuation methods are appropriate and consistent with other market participants, the use of different methodologies, or assumptions, to determine the fair value of certain financial and nonfinancial assets and liabilities could result in a different estimate of fair value at the reporting date. We use inputs that are current as of the measurement date, which may fall within periods of market dislocation, during which price transparency may be reduced.

Current Expected Credit Loss Reserve ("CECL")

We estimate our CECL Reserve using a model that considers multiple datapoints and methodologies that may include the likelihood of default and expected loss given default for each individual loan, discounted cash flows ("DCF"), and other inputs which may include the risk rating of the loan, how recently the loan was originated compared to the measurement date, and expected prepayment if applicable. Calculation of the CECL Reserve requires loan specific data, which include fixed charge coverage ratio, loan-to-value, property type and geographic location. Estimating the CECL Reserve also requires significant judgment with respect to various factors, including (i) the appropriate historical loan loss reference data, (ii) the expected timing of loan repayments, (iii) calibration of the likelihood of default to reflect the risk characteristics of our loan portfolio and (iv) our current and future view of the macroeconomic environment. We may consider loan-specific qualitative factors on certain loans to estimate our CECL Reserve, which may include (i) whether cash from the borrower's operations is sufficient to cover the debt service requirements currently and into the future, (ii) the ability of the borrower to refinance the loan and (iii) the liquidation value of collateral. For loans where we have deemed the borrower/sponsor to be experiencing financial difficulty, we may elect to apply a practical expedient in which the fair value of the underlying collateral is compared to the amortized cost of the loan in determining a CECL Allowance for the specific loan. In order to estimate the future expected loan losses relevant to our portfolio, we may consider historical market loan loss data provided by a third-party data service. The third party's loan database includes historical loss data for commercial mortgage-backed securities which we believe is a reasonably comparable and available data set to our type of loans.

Revenue Recognition

Interest income from loans is accrued based on the outstanding principal amount and the contractual terms of each loan. Revenue from OID is also recognized in interest income from loans over the initial loan term as a yield adjustment using the effective interest method. Management places loans on non-accrual status when principal or interest payments are past due 30 days or more or when full recovery of interest and principal is doubtful. Accrued and unpaid interest is generally reversed against interest income in the period the loan is placed on non-accrual status. Interest payments received on non-accrual loans are generally recognized on a cash basis and may be recognized as income or applied to principal depending upon management's judgment regarding the borrower's ability to make pending principal and interest payments. Non-accrual loans are restored to accrual status when past due principal and interest are paid and, in management's judgment, are likely to remain current. We may make exceptions to placing a loan on non-accrual status if the loan has sufficient collateral value and is in the process of collection. Delayed draw loans earn interest or unused fees on the undrawn portion of the loan, which is recognized as interest income in the period earned. Other fees, including prepayment fees and exit fees, are also recognized as interest income when received. Any such fees will be generated in connection with our investments and recognized as earned in accordance with GAAP.

Payment-in-Kind Interest

We have loans in our portfolio that contain PIK provisions. The PIK interest computed at the contractual rate specified in each applicable agreement is accrued and added to the principal balance of the loan and recorded as interest income. The PIK interest added to the principal balance is typically amortized and paid in accordance with the loan agreements.

In cases where the loans do not amortize, the PIK interest is collected upon repayment of the outstanding principal. To maintain our status as a REIT, this non-cash source of income is included in taxable income and will increase the dividend paid to shareholders for the year earned, even though the Company has not yet collected the cash.

Income Taxes

We are a Maryland corporation and have elected to be taxed as a REIT under the Code, commencing with our taxable year ended December 31, 2020. We believe we have qualified, and our method of operation will enable us to continue to qualify, as a REIT. However, no assurances can be given that our beliefs or expectations will be fulfilled, since qualification as a REIT depends on us satisfying numerous asset, income and distribution tests which depend, in part, on our operating results.

To continue to qualify as a REIT, we must meet a number of organizational and operational requirements, including a requirement that we distribute annually to our shareholders at least 90% of our REIT taxable income prior to the deduction for dividends paid and excluding our net capital gain. To the extent that we distribute less than 100% of our REIT taxable income in any tax year (taking into account any distributions made in a subsequent tax year under Sections 857(b)(9) or 858 of the Code), we will pay tax at regular corporate rates on that undistributed portion. Furthermore, if we distribute less than the sum of 1) 85% of our ordinary income for the calendar year, 2) 95% of our capital gain net income for the calendar year, and 3) any Required Distributions to our shareholders during any calendar year (including any distributions declared by the last day of the calendar year but paid in the subsequent year), then we are required to pay a non-deductible excise tax equal to 4% of any shortfall between the Required Distribution and the amount that was actually distributed. Any of these taxes would decrease cash available for distribution to our shareholders. The 90% distribution requirement does not require the distribution of net capital gains. However, if we elect to retain any of our net capital gain for any tax year, we must notify our shareholders and pay tax at regular corporate rates on the retained net capital gain. The shareholders must include their proportionate share of the retained net capital gain in their taxable income for the tax year, and they will be deemed to have paid the REIT's tax on their proportionate share of the retained capital gain. Furthermore, such retained capital gain may be subject to the nondeductible 4% excise tax. If it is determined that our estimated current year taxable income (including net capital gain) will be in excess of estimated dividend distributions (including capital gains dividends) for the current year from such income, we accrue excise tax on a portion of the estimated excess taxable income as such taxable income is earned. The annual expense is calculated in accordance with applicable tax regulations. Excise tax expense is included in the line item income tax expense.

Our wholly-owned subsidiary, TRS1, operates as a TRS and began operating in July 2021. A TRS is an entity taxed as a corporation that has not elected to be taxed as a REIT, in which a REIT directly or indirectly holds equity, and that has made a joint election with such REIT to be treated as a TRS. A TRS generally may engage in any business, including investing in assets and engaging in activities that could not be held or conducted directly by us without jeopardizing its qualification as a REIT. A TRS is subject to applicable United States federal, state and local income tax on its taxable income. In addition, as a REIT, we may also be subject to a 100% excise tax on certain transactions between us and our TRS that are not conducted on an arm's-length basis. The income tax provision is included in the line item income tax expense, including excise tax in the consolidated statements of operations included in this Annual Report.

FASB ASC Topic 740, Income Taxes ("ASC 740"), prescribes a recognition threshold and measurement attribute for the financial statement recognition and measurement of a tax position taken or expected to be taken in a tax return. ASC 740 also provides guidance on derecognition, classification, interest and penalties, accounting in interim periods, disclosure and transition. We have analyzed our various federal and state filing positions and believe that our income tax filing positions and deductions are well documented and supported as of December 31, 2023. Based on our evaluation, there is no reserve for any uncertain income tax positions. Accrued interest and penalties, if any, are included within other liabilities in the consolidated balance sheets.

JOBS Act Accounting Election

As an emerging growth company under the Jumpstart Our Business Startups Act of 2012, or the JOBS Act, we can take advantage of an extended transition period for complying with new or revised accounting standards. This allows an emerging growth company to delay the adoption of certain accounting standards until those standards would otherwise apply to private companies. We have elected to avail ourselves of this exemption from new or revised accounting standards and, therefore, will not be subject to the same new or revised accounting standards as other public companies that are not emerging growth companies. We intend to rely on other exemptions provided by the JOBS Act, including without limitation, not being required to comply with the auditor attestation requirements of Section 404(b) of Sarbanes-Oxley. As a result, our consolidated financial statements may not be comparable to companies that comply with new or revised accounting pronouncements as of public company effective dates.

We will remain an emerging growth company until the earliest of (i) the last day of the fiscal year following the fifth anniversary of the consummation of our IPO, (ii) the last day of the fiscal year in which we have total annual gross revenue of at least \$1.235 billion, (iii) the last day of the fiscal year in which we are deemed to be a "large accelerated filer" as defined in Rule 12b-2 under the Exchange Act, which would occur if the market value of our common stock held by non-affiliates exceeded \$700.0 million as of the last business day of the second fiscal quarter of such year, or (iv) the date on which we have issued more than \$1.0 billion in non-convertible debt securities during the prior three-year period.

Recent Accounting Pronouncements

In November 2023, the Financial Accounting Standards Board ("FASB") issued ASU 2023-07, Segment Reporting (Topic 280): Improvements to Reportable Segment Disclosures, to improve reportable segment disclosure requirements, primarily through enhanced disclosures about significant segment expenses. ASU 2023-07 is effective for fiscal years beginning after December 15, 2023 and interim periods within fiscal years beginning after December 15, 2024, early adoption is permitted. The amendments should be applied retrospectively to all prior periods presented in the financial statements. Upon transition, the segment expense categories and amounts disclosed in the prior periods should be based on the significant segment expense categories identified and disclosed in the period of adoption. The Company is currently evaluating the impact of the update on the Company's future consolidated financial statements.

In December 2023, the FASB issued ASU 2023-09—Income Taxes (Topic 740): Improvements to Income Tax Disclosures ("ASU 2023-09"). ASU 2023-09 improves the transparency of income tax disclosures related to rate reconciliation and income taxes. ASU 2023-09 is effective for annual periods beginning after December 15, 2024. For entities other than public business entities, the amendments are effective for annual periods beginning after December 15, 2025. Early adoption is permitted for annual financial statements that have not yet been issued or made available for issuance. The amendments should be applied prospectively, however retrospective application is permitted. The Company is currently evaluating the impact of the update on the Company's future consolidated financial statements.

Item 7A. Quantitative and Qualitative Disclosures About Market Risk

Risk Management

To the extent consistent with maintaining our REIT qualification and our exemption from registration under the Investment Company Act, we seek to manage risk exposure by closely monitoring our portfolio and actively managing financing, interest rate, credit, prepayment and convexity (a measure of the sensitivity of the duration of a loan to changes in interest rates) risks associated with holding our portfolio. Generally, with the guidance and experience of our Manager:

- we manage our portfolio through an interactive process with our Manager and service our self-originated loans through our Manager's servicer;
- we invest in a mix of floating- and fixed-rate loans to mitigate the interest rate risk associated with the financing of our portfolio;
- we actively employ portfolio-wide and asset-specific risk measurement and management processes in our daily operations, including utilizing our Manager's risk management tools such as software and services licensed or purchased from third-parties and proprietary analytical methods developed by our Manager; and
- we seek to manage credit risk through our due diligence process prior to origination or acquisition and through the use of non-recourse financing, when and where available and appropriate. In addition, with respect to any particular target investment, prior to origination or acquisition our Manager's investment team evaluates, among other things, relative valuation, comparable company analysis, supply and demand trends, shape-of-yield curves, delinquency and default rates, recovery of various sectors and vintage of collateral.

LIBOR Transition

In July 2017, the United Kingdom's Financial Conduct Authority (the "FCA") (the authority that regulates LIBOR) announced its intention to cease sustaining LIBOR by the end of 2021. The ICE Benchmark Administration (the "IBA"), which is supervised by the FCA, ended publication of the one-week and two-month USD LIBOR tenors on December 31, 2021, and the remaining USD LIBOR tenors (overnight, one-month, three-month, six-month and 12-month) ended following their publication on June 30, 2023. On April 3, 2023, the FCA announced that it would compel the IBA to publish an unrepresentative synthetic USD LIBOR through September 30, 2024 for use in legacy contracts.

As of December 31, 2023, seven of our loans, representing approximately 68% of our portfolio based on aggregate outstanding principal balances, paid interest at a variable rate tied to either SOFR or U.S. prime rate. If one of these floating benchmarks are no longer available, our applicable loan documents generally include fallback provisions that allow us to choose a new index based upon comparable information. However, if each of these benchmarks are no longer available, we may need to renegotiate some of our agreements to determine a replacement index or rate of interest. As such, the potential effect of any such event on our cost of capital and net investment income cannot yet be determined and any changes to benchmark interest rates could increase our financing costs, which could impact our results of operations, cash flows and the market value of our loans. In addition, changes to another index could result in mismatches with the interest rate of loans that we are financing. As of December 31, 2023, none of our loans paid interest at a variable rate tied to LIBOR.

Changes in Fair Value of Our Assets

We generally hold our target investments as long-term loans; however, we may occasionally classify some of our loans as held for sale. We may carry our loans at fair value or carrying value in our consolidated balance sheet. As of December 31, 2023 and 2022, two and three of our loans held for investment were carried at fair value within loans held at fair value in our consolidated balance sheets, respectively, with changes in fair value recorded through earnings.

We evaluate our loans on a quarterly basis and fair value is determined by our Board through its independent Audit and Valuation Committee. We use an independent third-party valuation firm to provide input in the valuation of all of our unquoted investments, which we consider along with other various subjective and objective factors in making our evaluations.

Our loans are typically valued using a yield analysis, which is typically performed for non-credit impaired loans to borrowers. Alternative valuation methodologies may be used as appropriate, and can include a market analysis, income analysis, or recovery analysis. To determine fair value using a yield analysis, a current price is imputed for the loan based upon an assessment of the expected market yield for a similarly structured loan with a similar level of risk. In the yield analysis, we consider the current contractual interest rate, the maturity and other terms of the loan relative to risk of the borrower and the specific loan. A key determinant of risk, among other things, is the leverage through the loan relative to the enterprise value of the borrower. As loans held by us are substantially illiquid with no active transaction market, we depend on primary market data, including newly funded loans, as well as secondary market data with respect to high-yield debt instruments and syndicated loans, as inputs in determining the appropriate market yield, as applicable. Changes in market yields, recovery rates, and revenue multiples may change the fair value of certain of our loans. Generally, an increase in market yields may result in a decrease in the fair value of certain of our loans, while a decrease in revenue multiples and recovery rates may result in a decrease in the fair value of certain of our loans; however, this is mitigated to the extent our loans bear interest at a floating rate.

Due to the inherent uncertainty of determining the fair value of loans that do not have a readily available market value, the fair value of our loans may fluctuate from period to period. Additionally, the fair value of our loans may differ significantly from the values that would have been used had a ready market existed for such loans and may differ materially from the values that we may ultimately realize. Further, such loans are generally subject to legal and other restrictions on resale or otherwise are less liquid than publicly traded securities. If we were required to liquidate our investment in a loan in a forced or liquidation sale, we could realize significantly less than the value at which we had recorded such loan investment.

Changes in Market Interest Rates and Effect on Net Interest Income

Interest rates are highly sensitive to many factors, including fiscal and monetary policies and domestic and international economic and political considerations, as well as other factors beyond our control. We are subject to interest rate risk in connection with our assets and our related financing obligations.

Our operating results depend in large part on differences between the income earned on our assets and our cost of borrowing. The cost of our borrowings generally will be based on prevailing market interest rates. During a period of rising interest rates, our borrowing costs generally will increase (a) while the yields earned on our leveraged fixed-rate loan assets will remain static, and (b) at a faster pace than the yields earned on our leveraged floating-rate loan assets, which could result in a decline in our net interest spread and net interest margin. The severity of any such decline would depend on our asset/liability composition at the time as well as the magnitude and duration of the interest rate increase. Further, an increase in short-term interest rates could also have a negative impact on the market value of our target investments. If any of these events happen, we could experience a decrease in net income or incur a net loss during these periods, which could adversely affect our liquidity and results of operations.

We are exposed to market risks in the ordinary course of our business. These risks primarily relate to fluctuations in interest rates. Our loans are typically valued using a yield analysis, which is typically performed for non-credit impaired loans to borrowers. Alternative valuation methodologies may be used as appropriate, and can include a market analysis, income analysis, or recovery analysis. Changes in market yields, revenue multiples, and recovery rates may change the fair value of certain of our loans. Generally, an increase in market yields may result in a decrease in the fair value of certain of our loans, while a decrease in revenue multiples and recovery rates may result in a decrease in the fair value of certain of our loans; however, this is mitigated to the extent our loans bear interest at a floating rate. As of December 31, 2023, a decrease of 50 bps or increase of 50 bps of the market yield would have resulted in a change in unrealized gain (loss) of approximately \$0.3 million and \$(0.3) million, respectively. As of December 31, 2023, we had seven floating-rate loans, representing approximately 68% of our portfolio based on aggregate outstanding principal balances. These floating benchmark rates included one-month SOFR subject to a weighted average floor of 3.3% and quoted at 5.4% and U.S. prime rate subject to a weighted average floor of 5.0% and quoted at 8.5%. We estimate that a hypothetical 100 basis points increase in the floating benchmark rate would result in an increase in annual interest income of approximately \$2.7 million and a hypothetical 100 basis points decrease in the floating benchmark rate would result in a decrease in annual interest income of approximately \$(2.3) million.

Interest Rate Cap Risk

Through our Manager, we originate both fixed and floating rate loans and going forward, we intend to have the majority of our loans by aggregate commitments accrue at floating rates. These are assets in which the loans may be subject to periodic and lifetime interest rate caps and floors, which limit the amount by which the asset's interest yield may change during any given period. However, our borrowing costs pursuant to our financing agreements may not be subject to similar restrictions. Therefore, in a period of increasing interest rates, interest rate costs on our borrowings could increase without limitation by caps, while the interest-rate yields on our floating-rate assets would effectively be limited. In addition, floating-rate assets may be subject to periodic payment caps that result in some portion of the interest being deferred and added to the principal outstanding. This could result in our receipt of cash income from such assets in an amount that is less than the amount that we would need to pay the interest cost on our related borrowings. These factors could lower our net interest income or cause a net loss during periods of rising interest rates, which would harm our financial condition, cash flows and results of operations.

Interest Rate Mismatch Risk

We may fund a portion of our origination of loans, or of loans that we may in the future acquire, with borrowings that are based on various benchmarks, while the interest rates on these assets may be fixed or indexed to SOFR, U.S. prime rate, or another index rate. Accordingly, any increase in an index rate will generally result in an increase in our borrowing costs that would not be matched by fixed-rate interest earnings and may not be matched by a corresponding increase in floating-rate interest earnings. Any such interest rate mismatch could adversely affect our profitability, which may negatively impact distributions to our shareholders.

Our analysis of risks is based on our Manager's experience, estimates, models and assumptions. These analyses rely on models which utilize estimates of fair value and interest rate sensitivity. Actual economic conditions or implementation of decisions by our Manager and our management may produce results that differ significantly from the estimates and assumptions used in our models and the projected results.

Credit Risk

We are subject to varying degrees of credit risk in connection with our loans and interest receivable. Our Manager seeks to mitigate this risk by seeking to originate loans, and may in the future acquire loans, of higher quality at appropriate prices given anticipated and unanticipated losses, by employing a comprehensive review and selection process and by proactively monitoring originated and acquired loans. Nevertheless, unanticipated credit losses could occur that could adversely impact our operating results. For additional information regarding the credit risk associated with our loans and interest receivables, see *"Risk Factors—Risks Related to Our Business and Growth Strategy—Loans to relatively new and/or small companies and companies operating in the cannabis industry generally involve significant risks."*

We expect to be subject to varying degrees of credit risk in connection with holding our portfolio of loans. We will have exposure to credit risk on our commercial real estate loans and other targeted types of loans. Our Manager will seek to manage credit risk by performing deep credit fundamental analysis of potential assets and through the use of non-recourse financing, when and where available and appropriate.

Credit risk will also be addressed through our Manager's ongoing review, and loans will be monitored for variance from expected prepayments, defaults, severities, losses and cash flow on a quarterly basis.

Other than the acquisition of our initial portfolio of loans and certain loan commitments relating to Private Company A, we, through our Manager, have originated substantially all of our loans and intend to continue to originate our loans, but we have previously and may in the future acquire loans from time to time. Our Investment Guidelines are not subject to any limits or proportions with respect to the mix of target investments that we make or that we may in the future acquire other than as necessary to maintain our exemption from registration under the Investment Company Act and our qualification as a REIT. Our investment decisions will depend on prevailing market conditions and may change over time in response to opportunities available in different interest rate, economic and credit environments. As a result, we cannot predict the percentage of our capital that will be invested in any individual target investment at any given time.

Our loan portfolio as of December 31, 2023 was concentrated with the top four borrowers representing approximately 69.4% of the aggregate outstanding principal balances and approximately 69.2% of the total loan commitments. Additionally, the industry is experiencing significant consolidation, which we expect to increase, among cannabis operations and certain of our borrowers may combine, increasing the concentration of our borrower portfolio with those consolidated operators. Our largest credit facility represented approximately 21.6% of the aggregate outstanding principal balances of our portfolio and approximately 19.5% of our total loan commitments as of December 31, 2023. The borrower under this credit facility is a Subsidiary of Public Company H, a multi-state operator with real estate assets in several states, certain of which have been included as collateral in connection with the senior term loan. Our portion of the senior term loan provided to such borrower has a principal amount of \$84.0 million outstanding as of December 31, 2023, which is fully funded. This senior term loan accrues interest at a variable rate of U.S. prime rate plus 5.8%, subject to a U.S. prime rate floor of 5.5%.

In June 2016, the FASB issued Accounting Standards Update ("ASU") No. 2016-13, which replaced the incurred loss impairment methodology pursuant to GAAP with a methodology that reflects current expected credit losses ("CECL") on both the outstanding balances and unfunded commitments on loans held for investment and requires consideration of a broader range of historical experience adjusted for current conditions and reasonable and supportable forecast information to inform credit loss estimates (the "CECL Reserve"). We adopted ASU No. 2016-13 as of July 31, 2020, the date of our commencement of operations. Subsequent period increases and decreases to expected credit losses impact earnings and are recorded within provision for current expected credit losses in our consolidated statement of operations. The CECL Reserve related to outstanding balances on loans held for investment required under ASU No. 2016-13 is a valuation account that is deducted from the amortized cost basis of our loans held at carrying value and loans receivable at carrying value in our consolidated balance sheet. The CECL Reserve related to unfunded commitments on loans held at carrying value is recorded within current expected credit loss reserve as a liability in our consolidated balance sheet. Refer to Note 6 within our consolidated financial statements titled "*Current Expected Credit Losses*" for more information on CECL.

We primarily provide loans to companies operating in the cannabis industry which involves significant risks, including the risk of strict enforcement against our borrowers of the federal illegality of cannabis, our borrowers' inability to renew or otherwise maintain their licenses or other requisite authorizations for their cannabis operations, and such loans lack of liquidity, and we could lose all or part of any of our loans.

Our ability to grow or maintain our core business depends on state laws pertaining to the cannabis industry. New laws that are adverse to our borrowers may be enacted, and current favorable state or national laws or enforcement guidelines relating to cultivation, production and distribution of cannabis may be modified or eliminated in the future, which would impede our ability to grow and could materially adversely affect our business.

Management's plan to mitigate risks include monitoring the legal landscape as deemed appropriate. Also, should a loan default or otherwise be seized, we may be prohibited from owning cannabis assets and thus could not take possession of collateral, in which case we would look to sell the loan, which could result in us realizing a loss on the transaction.

Real Estate Risk

Commercial real estate loans are subject to volatility and may be affected adversely by a number of factors, including, but not limited to, national, regional and local economic conditions (which may be adversely affected by industry slowdowns and other factors); local real estate conditions; changes or continued weakness in specific industry segments; construction quality, age and design; demographic factors; and retroactive changes to building or similar codes. In addition, decreases in property values reduce the value of the collateral and the potential proceeds available to a borrower to repay the underlying loan or loans, as the case may be, which could also cause us to suffer losses.

Item 8. Consolidated Financial Statements and Supplementary Data

See our consolidated financial statements and the notes thereto together with the report thereon of CohnReznick LLP dated March 7, 2024, beginning on page F-1 of this report included in Item 15, which are incorporated herein by reference in this Item 8.

Item 9. Changes In and Disagreements With Accountants on Accounting and Financial Disclosure

None.

Item 9A. Controls and Procedures

Evaluation of Disclosure Controls and Procedures

The Company maintains disclosure controls and procedures (as that term is defined in Rules 13a-15(e) and 15d-15(e) under the Exchange Act) that are designed to ensure that information required to be disclosed in the Company's reports under the Exchange Act is recorded, processed, and summarized and reported within the time periods specified in the SEC's rules and forms, and that such information is accumulated and communicated to the Company's management, including its Chief Executive Officer and Chief Financial Officer, as appropriate, to allow timely decisions regarding required disclosures. Any controls and procedures, no matter how well designed and operated, can provide only reasonable assurance of achieving the desired control objectives. An evaluation of the effectiveness of the design and operation of our disclosure controls and procedures as of the end of the period covered by this Annual Report was made under the supervision and with the participation of our management, including our Chief Executive Officer and Chief Financial Officer. Based upon this evaluation, our Chief Executive Officer and Chief Financial Officer have concluded that our disclosure controls and procedures (a) are effective to ensure that information required to be disclosed by us in reports filed or submitted under the Exchange Act is timely recorded, processed, summarized and reported and (b) include, without limitation, controls and procedures designed to ensure that information required to be disclosed by us in reports filed or submitted under the Exchange Act is accumulated and communicated to our management, including our Chief Executive Officer and Chief Financial Officer, as appropriate to allow timely decisions regarding required disclosure.

Management's Annual Report on Internal Control over Financial Reporting

Our management is responsible for establishing and maintaining adequate internal control over financial reporting, as such term is defined in Rules 13a-15(f) and 15d-15(f) of the Exchange Act. Our internal control over financial reporting is a process designed to provide reasonable assurance regarding the reliability of financial reporting and the preparation of financial statements for external purposes in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America. Our internal control over financial reporting includes those policies and procedures that (i) pertain to the maintenance of records that, in reasonable detail, accurately and fairly reflect the transactions and dispositions of our assets; (ii) provide reasonable assurance that transactions are recorded as necessary to permit preparation of financial statements in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America, and that receipts and expenditures are being made only in accordance with authorizations of management and our directors; and (iii) provide reasonable assurance regarding prevention or timely detection of the unauthorized acquisition, use or disposition of assets that could have a material effect on the financial statements. Because of its inherent limitations, internal control over financial reporting may not prevent or detect misstatements. Also, projections of any evaluation of effectiveness to future periods are subject to the risk that controls may become inadequate because of changes in conditions, or that the degree of compliance with the policies or procedures may deteriorate.

Management has assessed the effectiveness of our internal control over financial reporting as of December 31, 2023, using the framework specified in Internal Control – Integrated Framework (2013) issued by the Committee of Sponsoring Organizations of the Treadway Commission (COSO). Based on such assessment, management has concluded that our internal control over financial reporting was effective as of December 31, 2023.

This Annual Report does not include an attestation report of our independent registered public accounting firm regarding control over financial reporting. Management's report was not subject to attestation by our independent registered public accounting firm pursuant to Section 989G of the Dodd-Frank Wall Street and Consumer Protection Act, which exempts non-accelerated filers from the auditor attestation requirement of Section 404(b) of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act.

Effectiveness of Internal Control

It should be noted that any system of controls, however well designed and operated, can provide only reasonable, and not absolute, assurance that the objectives of the system will be met. In addition, the design of any control system is based in part upon certain assumptions about the likelihood of future events. Because of these and other inherent limitations of control systems, there is only the reasonable assurance that our controls will succeed in achieving their goals under all potential future conditions.

Changes in Internal Control over Financial Reporting

There have been no changes to our internal control over financial reporting (as defined in Rule 13a-15(f) and 15d-15(f) under the Exchange Act) that occurred during the year ended December 31, 2023, that have materially affected, or are reasonably likely to materially affect, our internal control over financial reporting.

Item 9B. Other Information

Insider Trading Arrangements

None of the Company's directors or officers adopted or terminated a Rule 10b5-1 trading arrangement or a non-Rule 10b5-1 trading arrangement during the Company's fiscal quarter ended December 31, 2023.

Item 9C. Disclosure Regarding Foreign Jurisdictions that Prevent Inspections

Not applicable.

PART III

Item 10. Directors, Executive Officers and Corporate Governance

Except as set forth below, the other information required by this item will be contained in the Company's definitive proxy statement for its 2024 Annual Shareholder Meeting, to be filed with the SEC within 120 days after December 31, 2023, and is incorporated herein by reference.

Code of Business Conduct and Ethics

We have adopted a Code of Business Conduct and Ethics for our directors, officers (including our principal executive officer, principal financial officer and principal accounting officer) and employees. A current copy of the code is posted under "Corporate Governance" on our website at <https://investors.afcgamma.com/corporate-governance/governance-overview>.

To the extent required by rules adopted by the Securities and Exchange Commission and Nasdaq, we intend to promptly disclose future amendments to certain provisions of the Code of Business Conduct and Ethics, or waivers of such provisions granted to executive officers and directors on our website at <https://investors.afcgamma.com/corporate-governance/governance-overview>.

Item 11. Executive Compensation

The information required by this item is incorporated by reference to the Company's definitive proxy statement for its 2024 Annual Shareholder Meeting, to be filed with the SEC within 120 days after December 31, 2023 and is incorporated herein by reference.

Item 12. Security Ownership of Certain Beneficial Owners and Management and Related Stockholder Matters

The information required by this item is incorporated by reference to the Company's definitive proxy statement for its 2024 Annual Shareholder Meeting, to be filed with the SEC within 120 days after December 31, 2023 and is incorporated herein by reference.

Item 13. Certain Relationships and Related Party Transactions, and Director Independence

The information required by this item is incorporated by reference to the Company's definitive proxy statement for its 2024 Annual Shareholder Meeting, to be filed with the SEC within 120 days after December 31, 2023 and is incorporated herein by reference.

Item 14. Principal Accountant Fees and Services

The information required by this item is incorporated by reference to the Company's definitive proxy statement for its 2024 Annual Shareholder Meeting, to be filed with the SEC within 120 days after December 31, 2023 and is incorporated herein by reference.

PART IV

Item 15. Exhibits and Financial Statement Schedules

- (1) Financial Statements—See the Index to Consolidated Financial Statements, together with the report thereon of CohnReznick LLP dated March 7, 2024, beginning on Page F-1.
- (2) Financial Statement Schedules—None. We have omitted financial statement schedules because they are not required or are not applicable, or the required information is shown in the consolidated financial statements or notes to the consolidated financial statements.
- (3) Exhibits.

Exhibit No.	Description of Exhibits
3.1	Articles of Amendment and Restatement of AFC Gamma, Inc. (filed as Exhibit 3.2 to the Company's Registration Statement on Form S-11 on January 22, 2021 and incorporated herein by reference).
3.1A	Articles of Amendment, dated March 10, 2022 (filed as Exhibit 3.1A to the Company's Annual Report on Form 10-K on March 10, 2022 and incorporated herein by reference).
3.4	Amended and Restated Bylaws of AFC Gamma, Inc. (filed as Exhibit 3.4 to the Company's Registration Statement on Form S-11 on January 22, 2021 and incorporated herein by reference).
4.1	Description of Capital Stock (filed as Exhibit 4.1 to the Company's Annual Report on Form 10-K on March 10, 2022 and incorporated herein by reference).
4.2	Indenture, dated as of November 3, 2021, by and between AFC Gamma, Inc. and TMI Trust Company, as trustee (filed as Exhibit 4.1 to the Company's Current Report on Form 8-K on November 3, 2021 and incorporated herein by reference).
4.3	Form of 5.750% Senior Notes due 2027 (included in Exhibit 4.2).
10.1	Amended and Restated Management Agreement, dated January 14, 2021 by and between AFC Gamma, Inc. and AFC Management, LLC (filed as Exhibit 10.1 to the Company's Annual Report on Form 10-K on March 10, 2022 and incorporated herein by reference).
10.1A	First Amendment to Amended and Restated Management Agreement, dated March 10, 2022, by and between AFC Gamma, Inc. and AFC Management, LLC (filed as Exhibit 10.1A to the Company's Annual Report on Form 10-K on March 10, 2022 and incorporated herein by reference).
10.1B	Second Amendment to Amended and Restated Management Agreement, dated November 7, 2022, by and between AFC Gamma, Inc. and AFC Management, LLC (filed as Exhibit 10.1B to the Company's Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q on November 8, 2022 and incorporated herein by reference).
10.1C	Third Amendment to Amended and Restated Management Agreement, dated March 6, 2023 by and between AFC Gamma, Inc. and AFC Management, LLC (filed as Exhibit 10.1C to the Company's Annual Report on Form 10-K on March 7, 2023 and incorporated herein by reference).
10.1D	Fourth Amendment to Amended and Restated Management Agreement, dated September 11, 2023 by and between AFC Gamma, Inc. and AFC Management, LLC (filed as Exhibit 10.1D to the Company's Current Report on Form 8-K on September 12, 2023 and incorporated herein by reference).
10.1E	Fifth Amendment to Amended and Restated Management Agreement, dated February 22, 2024 by and between AFC Gamma, Inc. and AFC Management, LLC (filed as Exhibit 10.1E to the Company's Current Report on Form 8-K on February 22, 2024 and incorporated herein by reference).

10.2	Form of Indemnification Agreement between the Registrant and each of its directors and officers (filed as Exhibit 10.2 to the Company's Registration Statement on Form S-11 on January 22, 2021 and incorporated herein by reference).
10.3	Form of Indemnification Agreement between Registrant and each of the Investment Committee members (filed as Exhibit 10.3 to the Company's Registration Statement on Form S-11 on January 22, 2021 and incorporated herein by reference).
10.4	Form of Registration Rights Agreement, by and among AFC Gamma, Inc. and the holders thereto (filed as Exhibit 10.4 to the Company's Registration Statement on Form S-11 on December 28, 2020 and incorporated herein by reference).
10.5§	2020 Stock Incentive Plan (filed as Exhibit 10.5 to the Company's Registration Statement on Form S-11 on January 22, 2021 and incorporated herein by reference).
10.6	Secured Revolving Credit Agreement, dated August 18, 2020, by and among AFC Gamma, Inc., as borrower, AFC Finance, LLC, as agent, and AFC Finance, LLC and Gamma Lending Holdco LLC, as lenders (filed as Exhibit 10.6 to the Company's Registration Statement on Form S-11 on December 28, 2020 and incorporated herein by reference).
10.6A	Amendment to Revolving Credit Agreement, dated as of May 7, 2021, by and among AFC Gamma, Inc., as borrower, AFC Finance, LLC, as agent, and AFC Finance, LLC and Gamma Lending Holdco LLC, as lenders (filed as Exhibit 10.2 to the Company's Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q on May 11, 2021 and incorporated herein by reference).
10.6B	Second Amendment to Revolving Credit Agreement, dated as of November 3, 2021, by and among AFC Gamma, Inc., as borrower, and AFC Finance, LLC, as and lender (filed as Exhibit 10.1 to the Company's Current Report on Form 8-K on November 3, 2021 and incorporated herein by reference).
10.7†	Loan and Security Agreement, dated April 29, 2022, by and among AFC Gamma, Inc., as Borrower, and the lenders that are party thereto (filed as Exhibit 10.7 to the Company's Current Report on Form 8-K on May 2, 2022 and incorporated herein by reference).
10.8*§	Employment Agreement, dated January 3, 2023, by and between AFC Management, LLC and Brandon Hetzel.
10.9*§	Employment Agreement, dated October 30, 2023, by and between AFC Management, LLC and Daniel Neville (filed as Exhibit 10.1 to the Company's Current Report on Form 8-K on October 30, 2023 and incorporated herein by reference).
21.1*	List of Subsidiaries of the Registrant.
23.1*	Consent of CohnReznick LLP, independent registered public accounting firm.
31.1*	Certification of Chief Executive Officer pursuant to Section 302 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002.
31.2*	Certification of Chief Financial Officer pursuant to Section 302 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002.
32.1**	Certification of Chief Executive Officer pursuant to Section 906 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002.
32.2**	Certification of Chief Financial Officer pursuant to Section 906 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002.
97	Clawback Policy
101.INS	Inline XBRL Instance Document - the instance document does not appear in the Interactive Data File because its XBRL tags are embedded within the Inline XBRL document.
101.SCH	Inline XBRL Taxonomy Extension Schema Document.
101.DEF	Inline XBRL Taxonomy Extension Definition Linkbase Document.
101.CAL	Inline XBRL Taxonomy Extension Calculation Linkbase Document.
101.LAB	Inline XBRL Taxonomy Extension Label Linkbase Document.
101.PRE	Inline XBRL Taxonomy Extension Presentation Linkbase Document.
104	Cover Page Interactive Data File (formatted as Inline XBRL and contained in Exhibit 101)

§ Management contract or compensatory plan or arrangement

* Filed herewith

** Furnished herewith

† The registrant has omitted portions of the referenced exhibit pursuant to Item 601(b) of Regulation S-K because such portions are both (i) not material and (ii) would likely cause competitive harm to the registrant if publicly disclosed.

Item 16. Form 10-K Summary

None.

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REPORT OF INDEPENDENT REGISTERED PUBLIC ACCOUNTING FIRM

Board of Directors and Shareholders

AFC Gamma, Inc.

Opinion on the Financial Statements

We have audited the accompanying consolidated balance sheets of AFC Gamma, Inc. and subsidiaries as of December 31, 2023 and 2022, and the related consolidated statements of operations, comprehensive income, shareholders' equity, and cash flows for the years then ended, and the related notes (collectively referred to as the "consolidated financial statements"). In our opinion, the consolidated financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of AFC Gamma, Inc. and subsidiaries as of December 31, 2023 and 2022, and the results of their operations and their cash flows for the years then ended, in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

Basis for Opinion

These consolidated financial statements are the responsibility of the entity's management. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these consolidated financial statements based on our audits. We are a public accounting firm registered with the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board (United States) ("PCAOB") and are required to be independent with respect to AFC Gamma, Inc. in accordance with the U.S. federal securities laws and the applicable rules and regulations of the Securities and Exchange Commission and the PCAOB.

We conducted our audits in accordance with the standards of the PCAOB. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the consolidated financial statements are free of material misstatement, whether due to error or fraud. AFC Gamma, Inc. is not required to have, nor were we engaged to perform, an audit of its internal control over financial reporting. As part of our audits we are required to obtain an understanding of internal control over financial reporting but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity's internal control over financial reporting. Accordingly, we express no such opinion.

Our audits included performing procedures to assess the risks of material misstatement of the consolidated financial statements, whether due to error or fraud, and performing procedures that respond to those risks. Such procedures included examining, on a test basis, evidence regarding the amounts and disclosures in the consolidated financial statements. Our audits also included evaluating the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the consolidated financial statements. We believe that our audits provide a reasonable basis for our opinion.

Emphasis of Matter

As further described in Note 10, AFC Gamma, Inc. is subject to significant risks and uncertainties due to originating, structuring, underwriting and managing senior secured loans and other types of loans for established cannabis industry operators.

/s/ CohnReznick LLP

We have served as AFC Gamma Inc.'s auditor since 2020.

Baltimore, Maryland

March 7, 2024

AFC GAMMA, INC.
CONSOLIDATED BALANCE SHEETS

	As of December 31,	
	2023	2022
Assets		
Loans held for investment at fair value (cost of \$ 71,644,003 and \$ 100,635,985 at December 31, 2023 and 2022, respectively, net)	\$ 61,720,705	\$ 99,226,051
Loans held for investment at carrying value, net	301,265,398	285,177,112
Loan receivable held at carrying value, net	2,040,058	2,220,653
Current expected credit loss reserve	(26,309,450)	(13,538,077)
Loans held for investment at carrying value and loan receivable held at carrying value, net of current expected credit loss reserve	276,996,006	273,859,688
Cash and cash equivalents	121,626,453	140,372,841
Accounts receivable	1,837,450	—
Interest receivable	3,715,995	5,257,475
Prepaid expenses and other assets	688,446	460,844
Total assets	\$ 466,585,055	\$ 519,176,899
Liabilities		
Interest reserve	\$ —	\$ 3,200,944
Accrued interest	894,000	1,036,667
Due to affiliate	16,437	18,146
Dividends payable	9,819,695	11,403,840
Current expected credit loss reserve	115,473	754,128
Accrued management and incentive fees	3,471,726	3,891,734
Accrued direct administrative expenses	1,486,256	1,843,652
Accounts payable and other liabilities	714,685	836,642
Senior notes payable, net	88,014,558	97,131,777
Line of credit payable, net	42,000,000	60,000,000
Total liabilities	146,532,830	180,117,530
Commitments and contingencies (Note 10)		
Shareholders' equity		
Preferred stock, par value \$ 0.01 per share, 10,000 shares authorized at December 31, 2023 and 2022 and 125 shares issued and outstanding at December 31, 2023 and 2022, respectively	1	1
Common stock, par value \$ 0.01 per share, 50,000,000 shares authorized at December 31, 2023 and 2022 and 20,457,697 and 20,364,000 shares issued and outstanding at December 31, 2023 and 2022, respectively	204,577	203,640
Additional paid-in capital	349,805,890	348,817,914
Accumulated (deficit) earnings	(29,958,243)	(9,962,186)
Total shareholders' equity	320,052,225	339,059,369
Total liabilities and shareholders' equity	\$ 466,585,055	\$ 519,176,899

See accompanying notes to the consolidated financial statements

AFC GAMMA, INC.
CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF OPERATIONS

	Years ended December 31,	
	2023	2022
Revenue		
Interest income	\$ 70,535,087	\$ 81,498,717
Interest expense	(6,357,457)	(6,814,075)
Net interest income	64,177,630	74,684,642
Expenses		
Management and incentive fees, net (less rebate of \$ 1,693,133 and \$ 1,785,916 , respectively)	14,064,305	15,765,250
General and administrative expenses	5,005,254	4,699,676
Stock-based compensation	1,008,148	1,338,469
Professional fees	1,488,410	1,601,961
Total expenses	21,566,117	23,405,356
Provision for current expected credit losses	(12,132,718)	(11,177,470)
Realized gains (losses) on investments, net	(1,340,476)	450,000
Gain (loss) on extinguishment of debt	1,986,381	—
Change in unrealized gains (losses) on loans at fair value, net	(8,513,364)	(3,593,095)
Net income before income taxes	22,611,336	36,958,721
Income tax expense	1,659,337	1,026,324
Net income	\$ 20,951,999	\$ 35,932,397
Earnings per common share:		
Basic earnings per common share (in dollars per share)	\$ 1.02	\$ 1.80
Diluted earnings per common share (in dollars per share)	\$ 1.02	\$ 1.79
Weighted average number of common shares outstanding:		
Basic weighted average shares of common stock outstanding (in shares)	20,321,091	19,842,222
Diluted weighted average shares of common stock outstanding (in shares)	20,345,919	19,957,737

See accompanying notes to the consolidated financial statements

AFC GAMMA, INC.
CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME

	Years ended December 31,	
	2023	2022
Net income	\$ 20,951,999	\$ 35,932,397
Other comprehensive income (loss):		
Reversal of unrealized loss to recognized loss on debt securities available for sale held at fair value	—	168,750
Total other comprehensive income (loss)	—	168,750
Total comprehensive income	\$ 20,951,999	\$ 36,101,147

See accompanying notes to the consolidated financial statements

AFC GAMMA, INC.
CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF SHAREHOLDERS' EQUITY

Year Ended December 31, 2023

	Preferred Stock	Common Stock		Additional Paid-In- Capital	Accumulated Other Comprehensive Income (Loss)	Accumulated Earnings (Deficit)	Total Shareholders' Equity
		Shares	Amount				
Balance at December 31, 2022	\$ 1	20,364,000	\$ 203,640	\$ 348,817,914	\$ —	\$ (9,962,186)	\$ 339,059,369
Stock-based compensation	—	93,697	937	987,976	—	—	988,913
Dividends declared on common shares (\$ 2.00 per share)	—	—	—	—	—	(40,933,056)	(40,933,056)
Dividends declared on preferred shares (\$ 120 per share)	—	—	—	—	—	(15,000)	(15,000)
Net income	—	—	—	—	—	20,951,999	20,951,999
Balance at December 31, 2023	\$ 1	20,457,697	\$ 204,577	\$ 349,805,890	\$ —	\$ (29,958,243)	\$ 320,052,225

Year ended December 31, 2022

	Preferred Stock	Common Stock		Additional Paid-In- Capital	Accumulated Other Comprehensive Income (Loss)	Accumulated Earnings (Deficit)	Total Shareholders' Equity
		Shares	Amount				
Balance at December 31, 2021	\$ 1	16,442,812	\$ 163,866	\$ 274,172,934	\$ (168,750)	\$ (1,092,877)	\$ 273,075,174
Issuance of common stock, net of offering costs	—	3,913,230	39,694	73,306,511	—	—	73,346,205
Stock-based compensation	—	7,958	80	1,338,469	—	—	1,338,549
Dividends declared on common shares (\$ 2.23 per share)	—	—	—	—	—	(44,786,706)	(44,786,706)
Dividends declared on preferred shares (\$ 120 per share)	—	—	—	—	—	(15,000)	(15,000)
Other comprehensive income (loss)	—	—	—	—	168,750	—	168,750
Net income	—	—	—	—	—	35,932,397	35,932,397
Balance at December 31, 2022	\$ 1	20,364,000	\$ 203,640	\$ 348,817,914	\$ —	\$ (9,962,186)	\$ 339,059,369

See accompanying notes to the consolidated financial statements

AFC GAMMA, INC.
CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF CASH FLOWS

	Years ended December 31,	
	2023	2022
Operating activities:		
Net income	\$ 20,951,999	\$ 35,932,397
Adjustments to reconcile net income to net cash provided by (used in) operating activities:		
Provision for current expected credit losses	12,132,718	11,177,470
Realized (gains) losses on investments, net	1,340,476	(450,000)
(Gain) loss on extinguishment of debt	(1,986,381)	—
Change in unrealized (gains) losses on loans at fair value, net	8,513,364	3,593,095
Accretion of deferred loan original issue discount and other discounts	(6,143,832)	(11,763,696)
Amortization of deferred financing costs - revolving credit facility	309,213	262,386
Amortization of deferred financing costs - senior notes	641,662	659,120
Stock-based compensation	988,913	1,338,469
Payment-in-kind interest	(10,931,732)	(8,369,127)
Changes in operating assets and liabilities		
Accounts receivable	(38,687)	—
Interest receivable	1,542,717	(844,537)
Prepaid expenses and other assets	(346,815)	859,203
Interest reserve	(4,700,944)	(2,031,327)
Accrued interest	(142,667)	44,827
Accrued management and incentive fees, net	(420,008)	1,068,690
Accrued direct administrative expenses	(357,396)	519,195
Accounts payable and other liabilities	(123,666)	(674,192)
Net cash provided by (used in) operating activities	21,228,934	31,321,973
Cash flows from investing activities:		
Issuance of and fundings on loans	(51,757,225)	(162,885,750)
Proceeds from sales of loans	21,312,827	10,600,000
Sale of available-for-sale debt securities	—	15,900,000
Principal repayment of loans	58,963,777	120,042,065
Net cash provided by (used in) investing activities	28,519,379	(16,343,685)
Cash flows from financing activities:		
Proceeds from sale of common stock	—	75,057,650
Payment of offering costs - equity offering	—	(1,711,365)
Payment of financing costs	(225,000)	(578,508)
Borrowings on revolving credit facility	63,000,000	60,000,000
Repayment of revolving credit facility	(81,000,000)	(75,000,000)
Dividends paid to common and preferred shareholders	(42,532,201)	(41,619,272)
Repayment of senior notes	(7,737,500)	—
Net cash provided by (used in) financing activities	(68,494,701)	16,148,505
Net (decrease) increase in cash and cash equivalents	(18,746,388)	31,126,793
Cash and cash equivalents, beginning of period	140,372,841	109,246,048
Cash and cash equivalents, end of period	\$ 121,626,453	\$ 140,372,841
Supplemental disclosure of non-cash activity:		
Interest reserve withheld from funding of loans	\$ 1,500,000	\$ 450,000
OID withheld from funding of loans	\$ 7,398,475	\$ 7,764,875
Change in other comprehensive income (loss) during the period	\$ —	\$ 168,750
Dividends declared and not yet paid	\$ 9,819,695	\$ 11,403,840
Supplemental information:		
Interest paid during the period	\$ 5,549,250	\$ 5,847,743
Income taxes paid during the period	\$ 1,655,821	\$ 952,524

See accompanying notes to the consolidated financial statements

AFC GAMMA, INC.
NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
As of December 31, 2023

1. ORGANIZATION

AFC Gamma, Inc. (the “Company” or “AFCG”) is an institutional lender to the commercial real estate sector that was founded in July 2020 by a veteran team of investment professionals. The Company primarily originates, structures, underwrites, invests in and manages senior secured commercial real estate loans and other types of loans and debt securities, with a specialization in loans to cannabis industry operators in states that have legalized medical and/or adult-use cannabis.

The Company is a Maryland corporation and completed its initial public offering (the “IPO”) in March 2021. The Company is externally managed by AFC Management, LLC, a Delaware limited liability company (the Company’s “Manager”), pursuant to the terms of the Amended and Restated Management Agreement, dated January 14, 2021, between the parties (as amended from time to time, the “Management Agreement”). The Company’s wholly-owned subsidiary, AFCG TRS1, LLC, a Delaware limited liability company (“TRS1”), operates as a taxable real estate investment trust subsidiary (a “TRS”). TRS1 began operating in July 2021, and the financial statements of TRS1 are consolidated within the Company’s consolidated financial statements. The Company’s wholly-owned subsidiary, Sunrise Realty Trust, Inc. (“SUNS”) (f/k/a CRE South LLC), was formed on August 28, 2023 and converted from a Delaware limited liability company to a Maryland corporation in February 2024. The financial statements of SUNS are consolidated within the Company’s consolidated financial statements.

The Company operates in one operating segment and is primarily focused on financing senior secured loans and other types of loans primarily to (i) senior secured loans to cannabis industry operators in states where medical and/or adult-use cannabis is legal and (ii) secured loans to commercial real estate owners, operators and related businesses. These loans are generally held for investment and are secured, directly or indirectly, by real estate, equipment, the value associated with licenses (where applicable) and/or other assets of borrowers depending on the applicable laws and regulations governing such borrowers.

The Company has elected to be taxed as a real estate investment trust (“REIT”) for United States federal income tax purposes under the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended (the “Code”). The Company generally will not be subject to United States federal income taxes on its REIT taxable income as long as it annually distributes all of its REIT taxable income prior to the deduction for dividends paid to shareholders and complies with various other requirements as a REIT.

2. SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Basis of Presentation

The accompanying consolidated financial statements and related notes have been prepared on the accrual basis of accounting in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America (“GAAP”) and include the accounts of the Company, and its wholly-owned subsidiaries. The consolidated financial statements reflect all adjustments that, in the opinion of management, are necessary for the fair presentation of the Company’s results of operations and financial condition as of and for the periods presented. All intercompany balances and transactions have been eliminated in consolidation.

Cash and Cash Equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents include funds on deposit with financial institutions, including demand deposits with financial institutions. Cash and short-term investments with an original maturity of three months or less when acquired are considered cash and cash equivalents for the purpose of the consolidated balance sheets and consolidated statements of cash flows.

Concentration of Credit Risks

Financial instruments that potentially subject the Company to concentrations of credit risk consist primarily of cash and cash equivalents, loans and interest receivable. The Company places its cash and cash equivalents with financial institutions, and, at times, cash held exceeds the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation insured limit. The Company and the Manager seek to manage this credit risk by monitoring the financial institutions and their ability to continue in business for the foreseeable future.

The Company has exposure to credit risk on its loans and interest receivable. The Company and the Manager seek to manage credit risk by performing due diligence prior to origination or acquisition and through the use of non-recourse financing, when and where available and appropriate.

Investments in Loans

The Company originates commercial real estate (“CRE”) debt and related instruments generally to be held for investment.

The Company accretes or amortizes any discounts or premiums on loans held for investment over the life of the related loan held for investment utilizing the effective interest method.

Loans are generally collateralized by real estate, equipment, value associated with licenses (where applicable) and/or other assets of borrowers. The extent of any credit deterioration associated with the performance and/or value of the underlying collateral property and the financial and operating capability of the borrower could impact the expected amounts received. The Company monitors performance of its portfolio of loans held for investment under the following methodology: (1) borrower review, which analyzes the borrower's ability to execute on its original business plan, reviews its financial condition, assesses pending litigation and considers its general level of responsiveness and cooperation; (2) economic review, which considers underlying collateral (i.e., leasing performance, unit sales and cash flow of the collateral and its ability to cover debt service, as well as the residual loan balance at maturity); (3) property review, which considers current environmental risks, changes in insurance costs or coverage, current site visibility, capital expenditures and market perception; and (4) market review, which analyzes the collateral from a supply and demand perspective of similar property types, as well as from a capital markets perspective.

Loans are generally placed on non-accrual status when principal or interest payments are past due 30 days or more or when there is reasonable doubt that principal or interest will be collected in full. Accrued and unpaid interest is generally reversed against interest income in the period the loan is placed on non-accrual status. Interest payments received on non-accrual loans may be recognized as income or applied to principal depending upon management's judgment regarding the borrower's ability to make pending principal and interest payments. Non-accrual loans are restored to accrual status when past due principal and interest are paid and, in management's judgment, are likely to remain current. The Company may make exceptions to placing a loan on non-accrual status if the loan has sufficient collateral value and is in the process of collection.

The Company may make modifications to loans, including loans that are in default. Loan terms that may be modified include interest rates, required prepayments, maturity dates, covenants, principal amounts and other loan terms. The terms and conditions of each modification vary based on individual circumstances and will be determined on a case-by-case basis. The Manager monitors and evaluates each of the Company's loans held for investment and has maintained regular communications with borrowers.

Loans Held at Fair Value

Investments in loans at fair value are carried at fair value in the Company's consolidated balance sheets, with changes in fair value recorded through earnings. Refer to Note 14 for more information on the valuations of the investments.

Although the Company generally holds its target loans as long-term investments, the Company may occasionally classify some of its loans as held for sale. Loans held for sale are carried at fair value, with changes in fair value recorded through earnings. Loan transactions are recorded on the trade date at cost, net of any original issue discounts. Realized gains or losses are measured by the difference between the net proceeds from the repayment or sale and the amortized and/or accreted cost basis of the investment using the specific identification method without regard to unrealized gains or losses previously recognized, and include loans charged off during the period, net of recoveries.

An unrealized gain arises when the value of the loan portfolio exceeds its cost and an unrealized loss arises when the value of the loan portfolio is less than its cost. The change in unrealized gains or losses primarily reflect the change in loan values, including the reversal of previously recorded unrealized gains or losses when gains or losses are realized.

Loans Held at Carrying Value

Investments in loans held at carrying value are carried at cost, net of unamortized loan original issue discount and origination costs and other original issue discounts (the “carrying value”) in the Company's consolidated balance sheets.

The Company follows Accounting Standards Codification (“ASC”) 842 for certain loans which are considered financial assets not eligible to elect the fair value option due to the structure of the loans. These loans are carried at cost, net of unamortized loan original issue discount and origination costs and other original issue discounts (the “carrying value”) in the Company’s consolidated balance sheets.

Investment in Marketable Securities

Investment in marketable securities consist of debt securities that are designated as available-for-sale. Marketable debt securities are recorded at fair value and unrealized holding gains or losses are excluded from net income on the consolidated income statement and reported as a component of accumulated other comprehensive income (loss) within shareholders’ equity.

Fair Value Measurements

The Company follows ASC 825-10, Recognition and Measurement of Financial Assets and Financial Liabilities (“ASC 825-10”), which provides companies the option to report selected financial assets and liabilities at fair value. ASC 825-10 also establishes presentation and disclosure requirements designed to facilitate comparisons between companies that choose different measurement attributes for similar types of assets and liabilities and to more easily understand the effect of the company’s choice to use fair value on its earnings. ASC 825-10 also requires entities to display the fair value of the selected assets and liabilities on the face of the balance sheet. The Company has elected the ASC 825-10 option to report selected financial assets and liabilities at fair value.

The Company also follows ASC 820-10, Fair Value Measurements Overall (“ASC 820-10”), which defines fair value, establishes a framework for measuring fair value in accordance with GAAP and expands disclosure of fair value measurements. ASC 820-10 determines fair value to be the price that would be received for an investment in a current sale, which assumes an orderly transaction between market participants on the measurement date. ASC 820-10 requires the Company to assume that the transaction is sold in its principal market to market participants or, in the absence of a principal market, the most advantageous market, which may be a hypothetical market. Market participants are defined as buyers and sellers in the principal or most advantageous market that are independent, knowledgeable, and willing and able to transact. In accordance with ASC 820-10, the Company has considered its principal market as the market in which the Company exits its loans with the greatest volume and level of activity. ASC 820-10 specifies a hierarchy of valuation techniques based on whether the inputs to those valuation techniques are observable or unobservable. In accordance with ASC 820-10, these inputs are summarized in the three broad levels listed below:

- Level 1—Valuations based on quoted prices in active markets for identical assets or liabilities that the Company has the ability to access.
- Level 2—Valuations based on quoted prices in markets that are not active or for which all significant inputs are observable, either directly or indirectly.
- Level 3—Valuations based on inputs that are unobservable and significant to the overall fair value measurement.

If inputs used to measure fair value fall into different levels of the fair value hierarchy, a loan’s level is based on the lowest level of input that is significant to the fair value measurement. The Company’s assessment of the significance of a particular input to the fair value measurement in its entirety requires judgment and considers factors specific to the loan. This includes loans that are valued using “bid” and “ask” prices obtained from independent third-party pricing services or directly from brokers.

Financial instruments with readily available quoted prices generally will have a higher degree of market price observability and a lesser degree of judgment inherent in measuring fair value. As such, the Company obtains and analyzes readily available market quotations provided by pricing vendors and brokers for all of the Company’s loans for which quotations are available. In determining the fair value of a particular loan, pricing vendors and brokers use observable market information, including both binding and non-binding indicative quotations.

GAAP requires disclosure of fair value information about financial and nonfinancial assets and liabilities, whether or not recognized in the financial statements, for which it is practical to estimate the value. In cases where quoted market prices are not available, fair values are based upon the application of discount rates to estimated future cash flows using market yields, or other valuation methodologies. Any changes to the valuation methodology will be reviewed by the Company's management to ensure the changes are appropriate. The methods used may produce a fair value calculation that is not indicative of net realizable value or reflective of future fair values. Furthermore, while the Company anticipates that the valuation methods are appropriate and consistent with other market participants, the use of different methodologies, or assumptions, to determine the fair value of certain financial and nonfinancial assets and liabilities could result in a different estimate of fair value at the reporting date. The Company uses inputs that are current as of the measurement date, which may fall within periods of market dislocation, during which price transparency may be reduced.

Current Expected Credit Losses

In June 2016, the FASB issued Accounting Standards Update ("ASU") No. 2016-13, Financial Instruments - Credit Losses (Topic 326): Measurement of Credit Losses on Financial Instruments. The standard replaced the incurred loss impairment methodology pursuant to GAAP with a methodology that reflects current expected credit losses ("CECL") on both the outstanding balances and unfunded commitments on loans held for investment and requires consideration of a broader range of historical experience adjusted for current conditions and reasonable and supportable forecast information to derive credit loss estimates (the "CECL Reserve"). ASU No. 2016-13 was adopted by the Company on July 31, 2020, commencement of operations. Subsequent period increases and decreases to expected credit losses impact earnings and are recorded within the provision for current expected credit losses in the Company's consolidated statements of operations. The CECL Reserve related to outstanding balances on loans held for investment required under ASU No. 2016-13 is a valuation account that is deducted from the amortized cost basis of the Company's loans held at carrying value and loan receivable held at carrying value in the Company's consolidated balance sheets. The CECL Reserve related to unfunded commitments on loans held at carrying value is recorded within the current expected credit loss reserve financial statement line in the Company's balance sheet. The Company has elected not to measure an allowance for credit losses for accrued interest receivable.

The Company estimates its current expected credit losses ("CECL") on both the outstanding balances and unfunded commitments on loans held for investment and requires consideration of a broader range of historical experience adjusted for current conditions and reasonable and supportable forecast information to inform the "CECL Reserve" using a model that considers multiple datapoints and methodologies that may include the likelihood of default and expected loss given default for each individual loan, discounted cash flows ("DCF"), and other inputs which may include the risk rating of the loan, how recently the loan was originated compared to the measurement date, and expected prepayment if applicable. Calculation of the CECL Reserve requires loan specific data, which may include fixed charge coverage ratio, loan-to-value, property type and geographic location. Estimating the CECL Reserve also requires significant judgment with respect to various factors, including but not limited to (i) the appropriate historical loan loss reference data, (ii) the expected timing of loan repayments, (iii) calibration of the likelihood of default to reflect the risk characteristics of the Company's loan portfolio and (iv) the Company's current and future view of the macroeconomic environment. The Company may consider loan-specific qualitative factors on certain loans to estimate its CECL Reserve, which may include (i) whether cash from the borrower's operations is sufficient to cover the debt service requirements currently and into the future, (ii) the ability of the borrower to refinance the loan and (iii) the liquidation value of collateral. For loans where the Company has deemed the borrower/sponsor to be experiencing financial difficulty, the Company may elect to apply a practical expedient in which the fair value of the underlying collateral is compared to the amortized cost of the loan in determining a specific CECL allowance. In order to estimate the future expected loan losses relevant to the Company's portfolio, the Company may consider historical market loan loss data provided by a third-party data service. The third party's loan database includes historical loss data for commercial mortgage-backed securities ("CMBS"), which the Company believes is a reasonably comparable and available data set to its type of loans. See Note 6 included in these consolidated financial statements for CECL related disclosures.

Stock-Based Compensation

The Company accounts for stock-based compensation issued to employees and the Board of Directors pursuant to the Amended and Restated Stock Incentive Plan (the "Stock Incentive Plan") under the fair value method. This method measures compensation cost at the date of grant based on the value of the award and recognizes the cost over the service period, which is usually the vesting period. The fair value of equity-based compensation awards is based on the estimated fair value of the Company's common stock, as determined by management using a valuation model and approved by the Board of Directors. Fair values of award grants also recognize any ongoing restrictions on the sale of securities.

Debt Issuance Costs

Debt issuance costs related to the Company's indebtedness are capitalized and amortized over the term of the respective debt instrument utilizing the effective interest method. Unamortized debt issuance costs are expensed when the associated debt is repaid prior to maturity. Amortization of debt issuance costs is included within interest expense in the Company's consolidated statements of operations. The unamortized balance for the senior notes is recorded within senior notes payable in these consolidated financial statements. The unamortized balance for the revolving credit facility is recorded as within prepaid expenses and other assets on these consolidated financial statements. See Note 9 included in these consolidated financial statements for further consideration.

Payment-in-Kind Interest

The Company has loans in its portfolio that contain payment-in-kind ("PIK") provisions. The PIK interest computed at the contractual rate specified in each applicable agreement is accrued and added to the principal balance of the loan monthly in arrears and recorded as interest income. The PIK income added to the principal balance is generally collected upon repayment of the outstanding principal. To maintain the Company's status as a REIT, this non-cash source of income is included in taxable income and will increase the dividend paid to shareholders for the year earned, even though the Company has not yet collected the cash.

Revenue Recognition

Interest income from loans is accrued based on the outstanding principal amount and the contractual terms of each loan. Origination fees, direct loan origination costs, and other discounts (in aggregate the "Original Issue Discount" or "OID") are also recognized in interest income from loans over the initial loan term as a yield adjustment using the effective interest method. Management places loans on non-accrual status when principal or interest payments are past due 30 days or more or when full recovery of interest and principal is doubtful. Accrued and unpaid interest is generally reversed against interest income in the period the loan is placed on non-accrual status. Interest payments received on non-accrual loans are generally recognized on a cash basis and may be recognized as income or applied to principal depending upon management's judgment regarding the borrower's ability to make pending principal and interest payments. Non-accrual loans are restored to accrual status when past due principal and interest are paid and, in management's judgment, are likely to remain current. The Company may make exceptions to placing a loan on non-accrual status if the loan has sufficient collateral value and is in the process of collection. Delayed draw loans earn interest or unused fees on the undrawn portion of the loan, which is recognized as interest income in the period earned. Other fees, including prepayment fees and exit fees, are recognized as interest income when received.

Interest reserves

The Company utilizes interest reserves on certain loans to fund the interest payments. Such reserves are established at the time of loan origination. The interest reserve represents a deposit received from the borrower for future loan interest payments. It is recorded as a liability as it represents unearned interest revenue. The interest reserve is relieved when the interest on the loan is earned and interest income is recorded in the period when the interest is earned in accordance with the credit agreement. The interest payment is deducted from the interest reserve deposit balance when the interest payment is due.

The decision to establish a loan-funded interest reserve is made during the underwriting process and considers the feasibility of the project, the creditworthiness and expertise of the borrower, and the debt coverage provided by the real estate and other pledged collateral.

It is the Company's policy to recognize income for this interest component as long as the borrower is progressing as originally projected and if there has been no deterioration in the financial standing of the borrower or the underlying project. The Company's standard policies for interest income recognition are applied to all loans, including those with interest reserves.

Income Taxes

The Company is a Maryland corporation and has elected to be taxed as a REIT under the Code, commencing with its taxable year ended December 31, 2020. The Company believes that its proposed method of operation will enable it to qualify as a REIT. However, no assurances can be given that the Company's beliefs or expectations will be fulfilled, since qualification as a REIT depends on the Company satisfying numerous asset, income and distribution tests which depend, in part, on the Company's operating results.

To qualify as a REIT, the Company must meet a number of organizational and operational requirements. Those qualification tests involve the percentage of income that the Company earns from specified sources, the percentage of the Company's assets that fall within specified categories, the diversity of the ownership of the Company's shares, and the percentage of the Company's taxable income that the Company distributes. The Company is required to distribute annually to its shareholders at least 90% of the Company's REIT taxable income prior to the deduction for dividends paid. To the extent that the Company distributes less than 100% of its REIT taxable income in any tax year (taking into account any distributions made in a subsequent tax year under Sections 857(b)(9) or 858 of the Code), the Company will pay tax at regular corporate rates on that undistributed portion. Furthermore, the Company will be subject to a 4% nondeductible excise tax on any amount by which distributions the Company pays with respect to any calendar year (including any distributions declared by the last day of the calendar year but paid in the subsequent year) are less than the sum of (1) 85% of our ordinary income, (2) 95% of our capital gain net income and (3) 100% of our undistributed income from prior years. The annual expense is calculated in accordance with applicable tax regulations. Excise tax expense is included in the financial statement line item income tax expense.

The Company's wholly-owned subsidiary, TRS1, operates as a TRS and began operating in July 2021. A TRS is an entity taxed as a corporation that has not elected to be taxed as a REIT, in which a REIT directly or indirectly holds equity, and that has made a joint election with such REIT to be treated as a TRS. A TRS generally may engage in any business, including investing in assets and engaging in activities that could not be held or conducted directly by the Company without jeopardizing its qualification as a REIT. A TRS is subject to applicable United States federal, state and local income tax on its taxable income. In addition, as a REIT, the Company also may be subject to a 100% excise tax on certain transactions between it and its TRS that are not conducted on an arm's-length basis. The income tax provision is included in the line item income tax expense, including excise tax.

FASB ASC Topic 740, Income Taxes ("ASC 740"), prescribes a recognition threshold and measurement attribute for the financial statement recognition and measurement of a tax position taken or expected to be taken in a tax return. ASC 740 also provides guidance on derecognition, classification, interest and penalties, accounting in interim periods, disclosure and transition. The Company has analyzed its various federal and state filing positions and believes that its income tax filing positions and deductions are well documented and supported as of December 31, 2023. Based on the Company's evaluation, there is no reserve for any uncertain income tax positions. Accrued interest and penalties, if any, are included within other liabilities in the consolidated balance sheets.

The Company files income tax returns in the United States federal jurisdiction as well as various state and local jurisdictions. The filings are subject to normal reviews by tax authorities until the related statute of limitations expires. As of December 31, 2023, tax years since 2020 remain subject to examination by taxing authorities.

Earnings per Share

The Company calculates basic earnings (loss) per share by dividing net income (loss) allocable to common shareholders for the period by the weighted average shares of common stock outstanding for that period after consideration of the earnings (loss) allocated to the Company's restricted stock, which are participating securities as defined in GAAP. Diluted earnings (loss) per share takes into effect any dilutive instruments, such as stock options, restricted stock, restricted stock units ("RSUs") and convertible debt, except when doing so would be anti-dilutive. As of December 31, 2023, there were dilutive instruments relating to stock options and restricted shares. See Note 11 included in these consolidated financial statements for the earnings per share calculations.

Use of Estimates in the Preparation of Financial Statements

The preparation of consolidated financial statements in conformity with GAAP requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect certain reported amounts and disclosures. Actual results could differ from those estimates. Significant estimates include the valuation of loans held for investment at fair value and current expected credit losses.

Recent Accounting Pronouncements

In November 2023, the Financial Accounting Standards Board ("FASB") issued ASU 2023-07, Segment Reporting (Topic 280): Improvements to Reportable Segment Disclosures, to improve reportable segment disclosure requirements, primarily through enhanced disclosures about significant segment expenses. ASU 2023-07 is effective for fiscal years beginning after December 15, 2023 and interim periods within fiscal years beginning after December 15, 2024, early adoption is permitted. The amendments should be applied retrospectively to all prior periods presented in the financial statements. Upon transition, the segment expense categories and amounts disclosed in the prior periods should be based on the significant segment expense categories identified and disclosed in the period of adoption. The Company is currently evaluating the impact of the update on the Company's future consolidated financial statements.

In December 2023, the FASB issued ASU 2023-09—Income Taxes (Topic 740): Improvements to Income Tax Disclosures ("ASU 2023-09"). ASU 2023-09 improves the transparency of income tax disclosures related to rate reconciliation and income taxes. ASU 2023-09 is effective for annual periods beginning after December 15, 2024. For entities other than public business entities, the amendments are effective for annual periods beginning after December 15, 2025. Early adoption is permitted for annual financial statements that have not yet been issued or made available for issuance. The amendments should be applied prospectively, however retrospective application is permitted. The Company is currently evaluating the impact of the update on the Company's future consolidated financial statements.

3. LOANS HELD FOR INVESTMENT AT FAIR VALUE

As of December 31, 2023 and 2022, the Company's portfolio included two and three loans held at fair value, respectively. The aggregate originated commitment under these loans was approximately \$ 94.2 million and \$ 104.3 million, respectively, and outstanding principal was approximately \$ 71.9 million and \$ 102.4 million as of December 31, 2023 and 2022, respectively. For the year ended December 31, 2023, the Company funded approximately \$ 1.9 million of additional principal and had approximately \$ 34.9 million of principal repayments of loans held at fair value. As of December 31, 2023 and 2022, none of the Company's loans held at fair value had floating interest rates.

The following tables summarize the Company's loans held at fair value as of December 31, 2023 and 2022:

	As of December 31, 2023			Weighted Average Remaining Life (Years) ⁽³⁾⁽⁴⁾
	Fair Value ⁽¹⁾	Carrying Value ⁽²⁾	Outstanding Principal ⁽²⁾	
Senior term loans	\$ 61,720,705	\$ 71,644,003	\$ 71,883,402	0.4
Total loans held at fair value	\$ 61,720,705	\$ 71,644,003	\$ 71,883,402	0.4

	As of December 31, 2022			Weighted Average Remaining Life (Years) ⁽³⁾
	Fair Value ⁽¹⁾	Carrying Value ⁽²⁾	Outstanding Principal ⁽²⁾	
Senior term loans	\$ 99,226,051	\$ 100,635,985	\$ 102,376,546	1.2
Total loans held at fair value	\$ 99,226,051	\$ 100,635,985	\$ 102,376,546	1.2

(1) Refer to Note 14.

(2) The difference between the Carrying Value and the Outstanding Principal amount of the loans consists of unaccreted original issue discount ("OID") and loan origination costs.

(3) Weighted average remaining life is calculated based on the fair value of the loans as of December 31, 2023 and 2022.

(4) As of December 31, 2023, the weighted average remaining life only reflects the remaining life of the Private Company A Credit Facility.

The following table presents changes in loans held at fair value as of and for the year ended December 31, 2023:

	Principal	Original Issue Discount	Unrealized Gains (Losses)	Fair Value
Total loans held at fair value at December 31, 2022	\$ 102,376,546	\$ (1,740,561)	\$ (1,409,934)	\$ 99,226,051
Realized gains (losses) on loans at fair value, net	(1,213,416)	—	—	(1,213,416)
Change in unrealized gains (losses) on loans at fair value, net	—	—	(8,513,364)	(8,513,364)
New fundings	1,881,840	—	—	1,881,840
Accretion of original issue discount	—	1,501,162	—	1,501,162
Loan repayments	(34,900,946)	—	—	(34,900,946)
PIK interest	3,739,378	—	—	3,739,378
Total loans held at fair value at December 31, 2023	\$ 71,883,402	\$ (239,399)	\$ (9,923,298)	\$ 61,720,705

The following table presents changes in loans held at fair value as of and for the year ended December 31, 2022:

	Principal	Original Issue Discount	Unrealized Gains (Losses)	Fair Value
Total loans held at fair value at December 31, 2021	\$ 77,630,742	\$ (2,717,584)	\$ 2,183,161	\$ 77,096,319
Change in unrealized (losses) gains on loans at fair value, net	—	—	(3,593,095)	(3,593,095)
New fundings	26,605,796	(479,275)	—	26,126,521
Loan repayments	(5,397,191)	—	—	(5,397,191)
Loan amortization payments	(1,089,776)	—	—	(1,089,776)
Accretion of original issue discount	—	1,456,298	—	1,456,298
PIK interest	4,626,975	—	—	4,626,975
Total loans held at fair value at December 31, 2022	\$ 102,376,546	\$ (1,740,561)	\$ (1,409,934)	\$ 99,226,051

In September 2023, the credit facility with Public Company A matured without repayment. The agent on the credit facility has placed the borrower in default, and the Company recorded a realized loss of approximately \$(1.2) million for the year ended December 31, 2023. As of December 31, 2022, the Company had one loan held at fair value on non-accrual status with an outstanding principal amount of approximately \$ 1.2 million with a related unrealized loss recorded of approximately \$(1.2) million.

A more detailed listing of the Company's loans held at fair value portfolio based on information available as of December 31, 2023 is as follows:

	Collateral Location	Collateral Type ⁽¹⁾	Fair Value ⁽²⁾	Carrying Value ⁽³⁾	Outstanding Principal ⁽³⁾	Interest Rate	Maturity Date ⁽⁴⁾	Payment Terms ⁽⁵⁾
Private Co. A	AZ, MA, NM	C, D	\$ 47,627,845	\$ 53,125,133	\$ 53,364,532	15.7 % ⁽⁶⁾	5/8/2024	P/I
Private Co. B	MI	C, D	14,092,860	18,518,870	18,518,870	18.7 % ⁽⁷⁾	9/1/2023	P/I
Total loans held at fair value			\$ 61,720,705	\$ 71,644,003	\$ 71,883,402			

(1) C = Cultivation Facilities, D = Dispensary/Retail Facilities.

(2) Refer to Note 14.

(3) The difference between the Carrying Value and the Outstanding Principal amount of the loans consists of OID and loan origination costs.

- (4) Certain loans are subject to contractual extension options and may be subject to performance based or other conditions as stipulated in the loan agreement. Actual maturities may differ from contractual maturities stated herein as certain borrowers may have the right to prepay with or without paying a prepayment penalty. The Company may also extend contractual maturities and amend other terms of the loans in connection with loan modifications.
- (5) I/O = interest-only, P/I = principal and interest. P/I loans may include interest-only periods for a portion of the loan term.
- (6) Base weighted average interest rate of 13.0 % and payment-in-kind ("PIK") weighted average interest rate of 2.7 %. In October 2023, AFC Agent LLC ("AFC Agent") delivered a notice of default to Private Company A based on certain financial and other covenant defaults and began charging additional default interest of 5.0 %, beginning as of July 1, 2023, in accordance with the terms of the Private Company A Credit Facility.
- (7) The maturity date passed on the credit facility to Private Company B without repayment. The agent on the credit facility sent the borrower a notice of default and placed the borrower in receivership to maintain the borrower's operations that were disrupted as a result of a management dispute. The Company has been in discussions with the borrower regarding refinancing the credit facility and with the receiver regarding a potential sale of the business in order to repay the loan. Until the loan is repaid, the borrower is obligated to pay interest at a base weighted average interest rate of 14.7 % and PIK interest rate of 4.0 %, plus a default interest rate of 4.0 %. As amended by the forbearance and modification agreement entered into with Private Company B in February 2023, the 4.0 % default interest rate is applicable from January 15, 2023 and is paid in kind.

4. LOANS HELD FOR INVESTMENT AT CARRYING VALUE

As of December 31, 2023 and 2022, the Company's portfolio included nine loans held at carrying value. The aggregate originated commitment under these loans was approximately \$ 333.1 million and \$ 338.9 million, respectively, and outstanding principal was approximately \$ 314.4 million and \$ 296.6 million, respectively, as of December 31, 2023 and 2022. During the year ended December 31, 2023, the Company funded approximately \$ 59.1 million of new loans and additional principal, had approximately \$ 23.9 million of principal repayments of loans held at carrying value and sold \$ 24.6 million in the aggregate of the Company's investment in Subsidiary of Public Company M and Private Company I. As of December 31, 2023 and 2022, approximately 84 % and 73 %, respectively, of the Company's loans held at carrying value had floating interest rates. As of December 31, 2023, these floating benchmark rates included one-month Secured Overnight Financing Rate ("SOFR") subject to a weighted average floor of 3.3 % and quoted at 5.4 % and U.S. prime rate subject to a weighted average floor of 5.0 % and quoted at 8.5 %.

The following tables summarize the Company's loans held at carrying value as of December 31, 2023 and 2022:

As of December 31, 2023				
	Outstanding Principal ⁽¹⁾	Original Issue Discount	Carrying Value ⁽¹⁾	Weighted Average Remaining Life (Years) ⁽²⁾
Senior term loans	\$ 314,376,929	\$ (13,111,531)	\$ 301,265,398	2.2
Total loans held at carrying value	\$ 314,376,929	\$ (13,111,531)	\$ 301,265,398	2.2
As of December 31, 2022				
	Outstanding Principal ⁽¹⁾	Original Issue Discount	Carrying Value ⁽¹⁾	Weighted Average Remaining Life (Years) ⁽²⁾
Senior term loans	\$ 296,584,529	\$ (11,407,417)	\$ 285,177,112	3.1
Total loans held at carrying value	\$ 296,584,529	\$ (11,407,417)	\$ 285,177,112	3.1

(1) The difference between the Carrying Value and the Outstanding Principal amount of the loans consists of unaccreted OID and loan origination costs.

(2) Weighted average remaining life is calculated based on the carrying value of the loans as of December 31, 2023 and 2022.

The following table presents changes in loans held at carrying value as of and for the year ended December 31, 2023:

	Principal	Original Issue Discount	Carrying Value
Total loans held at carrying value at December 31, 2022	\$ 296,584,529	\$ (11,407,417)	\$ 285,177,112
New fundings	59,088,860	(7,713,475)	51,375,385
Accretion of original issue discount	—	4,642,670	4,642,670
Loan repayments	(18,600,105)	—	(18,600,105)
Sale of loans	(24,606,578)	1,366,691	(23,239,887)
PIK interest	7,192,354	—	7,192,354
Loan amortization payments	(5,282,131)	—	(5,282,131)
Total loans held at carrying value at December 31, 2023	\$ 314,376,929	\$ (13,111,531)	\$ 301,265,398

The following table presents changes in loans held at carrying value as of and for the year ended December 31, 2022:

	Principal	Original Issue Discount	Carrying Value
Total loans held at carrying value at December 31, 2021	\$ 270,841,715	\$ (13,678,219)	\$ 257,163,496
New fundings	173,685,505	(8,035,600)	165,649,905
Accretion of original issue discount	—	10,306,402	10,306,402
Loan repayments	(138,807,472)	—	(138,807,472)
Sale of loans	(10,000,000)	—	(10,000,000)
PIK interest	3,715,966	—	3,715,966
Loan amortization payments	(2,851,185)	—	(2,851,185)
Total loans held at carrying value at December 31, 2022	\$ 296,584,529	\$ (11,407,417)	\$ 285,177,112

As of December 31, 2023, the Company had three loans held at carrying value on non-accrual status. As of December 31, 2022, all loans held at carrying value were current and performing.

As of May 1, 2023, Private Company I was placed on non-accrual status with an outstanding principal amount of approximately \$ 3.8 million.

Subsidiary of Private Company G was placed on non-accrual status from June 1, 2023 to August 31, 2023. In September 2023, a forbearance agreement was entered into with Subsidiary of Private Company G. In exchange for such forbearance, Subsidiary of Private Company G agreed to, among other things, sell certain assets, including certain collateral, the proceeds of which will be applied to the outstanding obligations under the credit agreement with Private Company G, to provide certain additional collateral, and to contribute additional cash equity to be held in escrow by AFC Agent. As amended by the forbearance agreement entered into with Subsidiary of Private Company G, the borrower was required to pay interest of \$ 0.8 million pro rata to the lender group for the month of September and to pay \$ 1.0 million pro rata to the lender group for each of the months of October, November, and December 2023. Subsidiary of Private Company G paid September, October, and November interest in accordance with the terms of the forbearance agreement, which was due October 1, 2023, November 1, 2023, and December 1, 2023, respectively, and the credit facility was restored to accrual status. During the fourth quarter of 2023, AFC Agent received \$ 1.5 million from the sale of some of the collateral assets of Subsidiary of Private Company G, of which approximately \$ 1.3 million was allocated to the Company and applied to the outstanding interest balance. Subsidiary of Private Company G did not make its cash interest payment due January 1, 2024 in arrears for the month of December, and the Company placed the borrower on non-accrual status as of December 1, 2023 with an outstanding principal amount of approximately \$ 79.2 million. Refer to Note 17 to the Company's consolidated financial statements for more information on Subsidiary of Private Company G forbearance agreement that was entered into subsequent to December 31, 2023.

Subsequent to December 31, 2023, the Company delivered a reservation of rights letter to Private Company K in January 2024 with respect to the occurrence of certain events of default, including the failure to make principal and interest payments when due and deliver monthly statements as required under the credit agreement with Private Company K. In March 2024, the Company entered into a forbearance agreement with Private Company K. Refer to Note 17 to the Company's consolidated financial statements for more information on the Private Company K forbearance agreement that was entered into subsequent to December 31, 2023. Private Company K was placed on non-accrual status as of December 1, 2023 with an outstanding principal amount of approximately \$ 13.4 million.

A more detailed listing of the Company's loans held at carrying value portfolio based on information available as of December 31, 2023 is as follows:

	Collateral Location	Collateral Type ⁽¹⁾	Outstanding Principal ⁽²⁾	Original Issue Discount	Carrying Value ⁽²⁾	Interest Rate	Maturity Date ⁽³⁾	Payment Terms ⁽⁴⁾
Private Co. C	PA	C, D	\$ 9,954,630	\$ (178,363)	\$ 9,776,267	19.5 % ⁽⁵⁾	12/1/2025	P/I
Sub. of Private Co. G	NJ, PA	C, D	79,215,888	(1,444,847)	77,771,041	18.8 % ⁽⁶⁾	5/1/2026	P/I
Private Co. K	MA	C, D	13,445,762	(682,619)	12,763,143	19.4 % ⁽⁷⁾	5/3/2027	P/I
Private Co. I	MD	C, D	3,767,454	(50,036)	3,717,418	21.9 % ⁽⁸⁾	8/1/2026	P/I
Private Co. J	MO	C, D	21,713,695	(327,993)	21,385,702	19.4 % ⁽⁹⁾	9/1/2025	P/I
	CT, IA, IL, ME, MI,							
Sub. of Public Co. H	NJ, PA	C, D	84,000,000	(2,442,615)	81,557,385	14.3 % ⁽¹⁰⁾	1/1/2026	I/O
Private Co. L	MO, OH	C, D	53,000,000	(1,775,625)	51,224,375	13.7 % ⁽¹¹⁾	5/1/2026	P/I
	IL, MI, MA, NJ,							
Sub. of Public Co. M	OH, PA	C, D	18,822,000	(2,086,024)	16,735,976	9.5 % ⁽¹²⁾	8/27/2025	I/O
Private Co. M	AZ	D	30,457,500	(4,123,409)	26,334,091	9.0 % ⁽¹³⁾	7/31/2026	P/I
Total loans held at carrying value			\$ 314,376,929	\$ (13,111,531)	\$ 301,265,398			

(1) C = Cultivation Facilities, D = Dispensary/Retail Facilities.

(2) The difference between the Carrying Value and the Outstanding Principal amount of the loans consists of unaccreted OID and loan origination costs.

(3) Certain loans are subject to contractual extension options and may be subject to performance based or other conditions as stipulated in the loan agreement. Actual maturities may differ from contractual maturities stated herein as certain borrowers may have the right to prepay with or without paying a prepayment penalty. The Company may also extend contractual maturities and amend other terms of the loans in connection with loan modifications.

(4) I/O = interest-only, P/I = principal and interest. P/I loans may include interest-only periods for a portion of the loan term.

(5) Base interest rate of 9.0 % plus U.S. prime rate (U.S. prime rate floor of 4.0 %) and PIK interest rate of 2.0 %.

(6) Base interest rate of 10.25 % plus U.S. prime rate (U.S. prime rate floor of 4.5 %). As amended, 75.0 % of the monthly cash interest was paid in kind from December 1, 2022 to May 1, 2023. Subsidiary of Private Company G was placed on non-accrual status from June 1, 2023 to August 31, 2023. In September 2023, a forbearance agreement was entered into with Subsidiary of Private Company G. As amended by the forbearance agreement entered into with Subsidiary of Private Company G, the borrower was required to pay interest of \$ 0.8 million pro rata to the lender group for the month of September and to pay \$ 1.0 million pro rata to the lender group for each of the months of October, November, and December 2023. Subsidiary of Private Company G paid September, October, and November interest in accordance with the terms of the forbearance agreement, which was due October 1, 2023, November 1, 2023 and December 1, 2023, respectively, and the credit facility was restored to accrual status until December 1, 2023. Subsidiary of Private Company G did not make its cash interest payment due January 1, 2024 in arrears for the month of December, and the Company placed the borrower on non-accrual as of December 1, 2023.

(7) Base interest rate of 12.0 % plus SOFR (SOFR floor of 1.0 %) and PIK interest rate of 2.0 %. As of December 1, 2023, the Company placed the borrower on non-accrual status.

(8) Base interest rate of 12.0 % plus SOFR (SOFR floor of 1.0 %) and PIK interest rate of 4.5 %. As amended, between 50.0 % and 60.0 % of the monthly cash interest was paid in kind from October 1, 2022 to April 1, 2023 and an additional 5.0 % default rate has been applied since May 8, 2023 and the agent on this credit facility has since initiated a foreclosure proceeding. As of May 1, 2023, this loan was placed on non-accrual status. Effective July 2023, the floating interest rate under the credit agreement for Private Company I transitioned from LIBOR to SOFR.

(9) Base interest rate of 12.0 % plus SOFR (SOFR floor of 1.0 %) and PIK interest rate of 2.0 %.

(10) Base interest rate of 5.8 % plus U.S. prime rate (U.S. prime rate floor of 5.5 %).

(11) Base interest rate of 8.4 % plus SOFR (SOFR floor of 5.0 %). Effective September 2023, Private Company L transitioned from a fixed interest rate to a floating interest rate tied to SOFR.

(12) Base interest rate of 9.5 %.

(13) Base interest rate of 9.0 %. Quarterly cash interest is paid in kind from closing to February 1, 2024 and then payable in cash thereafter.

5. LOAN RECEIVABLE HELD AT CARRYING VALUE

As of December 31, 2023 and 2022, the Company's portfolio included one loan receivable held at carrying value. The originated commitment under this loan was \$ 4.0 million and outstanding principal was approximately \$ 2.0 million and \$ 2.2 million as of December 31, 2023 and 2022, respectively. During the year ended December 31, 2023, the Company had approximately \$ 0.2 million of principal repayments of loan receivable held at carrying value.

The following table presents changes in loans receivable as of and for the year ended December 31, 2023:

	Principal	Original Issue Discount	Carrying Value
Total loan receivable held at carrying value at December 31, 2022	\$ 2,222,339	\$ (1,686)	\$ 2,220,653
Loan repayments	(180,595)	—	(180,595)
Total loan receivable held at carrying value at December 31, 2023	\$ 2,041,744	\$ (1,686)	\$ 2,040,058

The following table presents changes in loans receivable as of and for the year ended December 31, 2022:

	Principal	Original Issue Discount	Carrying Value
Total loan receivable held at carrying value at December 31, 2021	\$ 2,533,266	\$ (2,678)	\$ 2,530,588
Loan repayments	(337,114)	—	(337,114)
Accretion of original issue discount	—	992	992
PIK interest	26,187	—	26,187
Total loan receivable held at carrying value at December 31, 2022	\$ 2,222,339	\$ (1,686)	\$ 2,220,653

As of December 31, 2023 and 2022, the Company had one loan receivable held at carrying value on non-accrual status with an outstanding principal amount of approximately \$ 2.0 million and \$ 2.2 million, respectively.

6. CURRENT EXPECTED CREDIT LOSSES

As of December 31, 2023 and 2022, the Company's CECL Reserve for its loans held at carrying value and loan receivable held at carrying value is approximately \$ 26.4 million and \$ 14.3 million, respectively, or 8.71 % and 4.97 %, respectively, of the Company's total loans held at carrying value and loan receivable held at carrying value of approximately \$ 303.3 million and \$ 287.4 million, respectively, and is bifurcated between the current expected credit loss reserve (contra-asset) related to outstanding balances on loans held at carrying value and loan receivable held at carrying value of approximately \$ 26.3 million and \$ 13.5 million, respectively, and a liability for unfunded commitments of approximately \$ 0.1 million and \$ 0.8 million, respectively. The liability was based on the unfunded portion of the loan commitment over the full contractual period over which the Company is exposed to credit risk through a current obligation to extend credit. Management considered the likelihood that funding will occur, and if funded, the expected credit loss on the funded portion.

Activity related to the CECL Reserve for outstanding balances and unfunded commitments on the Company's loans held at carrying value and loan receivable held at carrying value as of and for the years ended December 31, 2023 and 2022 was as follows:

	Outstanding ⁽¹⁾	Unfunded ⁽²⁾	Total
Balance at December 31, 2022	\$ 13,538,077	\$ 754,128	\$ 14,292,205
Provision for current expected credit losses	12,771,373	(638,655)	12,132,718
Write-offs	—	—	—
Recoveries	—	—	—
Balance at December 31, 2023	\$ 26,309,450	\$ 115,473	\$ 26,424,923

	Outstanding ⁽¹⁾	Unfunded ⁽²⁾	Total
Balance at December 31, 2021	\$ 2,431,558	\$ 683,177	\$ 3,114,735
Provision for current expected credit losses	11,106,519	70,951	11,177,470
Write-offs	—	—	—
Recoveries	—	—	—
Balance at December 31, 2022	\$ 13,538,077	\$ 754,128	\$ 14,292,205

(1) As of December 31, 2023 and 2022, the CECL Reserve related to outstanding balances on loans held at carrying value and loan receivable held at carrying value is recorded within current expected credit loss reserve in the Company's consolidated balance sheets.

(2) As of December 31, 2023 and 2022, the CECL Reserve related to unfunded commitments on loans held at carrying value is recorded within current expected credit loss reserve as a liability in the Company's consolidated balance sheets.

The Company continuously evaluates the credit quality of each loan by assessing the risk factors of each loan and assigning a risk rating based on a variety of factors. Risk factors include property type, geographic and local market dynamics, physical condition, projected cash flow, loan structure and exit plan, loan-to-value ratio, fixed charge coverage ratio, project sponsorship, and other factors deemed necessary. Based on a 5-point scale, the Company's loans are rated "1" through "5," from less risk to greater risk, which ratings are defined as follows:

Rating	Definition
1	Very Low Risk — Materially exceeds performance metrics included in original or current credit underwriting and business plan
2	Low Risk — Collateral and business performance exceeds substantially all performance metrics included in original or current credit underwriting and business plan
3	Medium Risk — Collateral and business performance meets, or is on track to meet underwriting expectations; business plan is met or can reasonably be achieved
4	High Risk/ Potential for Loss — Collateral performance falls short of underwriting, material differences from business plans, defaults may exist, or may soon exist absent material improvement. Risk of recovery of interest exists
5	Impaired/ Loss Likely — Performance is significantly worse than underwriting with major variances from business plan observed. Loan covenants or financial milestones have been breached; exit from loan or refinancing is uncertain. Full recovery of principal is unlikely

The risk ratings are primarily based on historical data as well as taking into account future economic conditions.

As of December 31, 2023, the carrying value, excluding the CECL Reserve, of the Company's loans held at carrying value and loan receivable held at carrying value within each risk rating by year of origination is as follows:

Risk Rating:	2023	2022	2021	2020	Total
1	\$ —	\$ —	\$ —	\$ —	\$ —
2	—	—	—	—	—
3	26,334,091	67,960,351	102,943,087	9,776,267	207,013,796
4	—	—	3,717,418	—	3,717,418
5	—	12,763,143	77,771,041	2,040,058	92,574,242
Total	\$ 26,334,091	\$ 80,723,494	\$ 184,431,546	\$ 11,816,325	\$ 303,305,456

7. INTEREST RECEIVABLE

The following table summarizes the interest receivable by the Company as of December 31, 2023 and 2022:

	As of December 31	
	2023	2022
Interest receivable	\$ 2,680,188	\$ 3,722,134
PIK receivable	1,009,974	1,409,678
Unused fees receivable	25,833	125,663
Total interest receivable	\$ 3,715,995	\$ 5,257,475

8. INTEREST RESERVE

At December 31, 2023 and 2022, the Company had zero and three loans, respectively, that included a loan-funded interest reserve. For the years ended December 31, 2023 and 2022, approximately \$ 4.7 million and \$ 14.2 million, respectively, of aggregate interest income was earned and disbursed from the interest reserves.

The following table presents changes in interest reserve as of and for the years ended December 31, 2023 and 2022:

	As of December 31,	
	2023	2022
Beginning reserves	\$ 3,200,944	\$ 4,782,271
New reserves	1,526,065	12,648,888
Reserves disbursed	(4,727,009)	(14,230,215)
Ending reserves	\$ —	\$ 3,200,944

9. DEBT

Revolving Credit Facility

On April 29, 2022, the Company entered into the Loan and Security Agreement (the "Revolving Credit Agreement") by and among the Company, the other loan parties from time to time party thereto, the lenders party thereto, and the lead arranger, bookrunner and administrative agent party thereto, pursuant to which, the Company obtained a \$ 60.0 million senior secured revolving credit facility (the "Revolving Credit Facility"). The Revolving Credit Facility has a maturity date of April 29, 2025.

The Revolving Credit Facility contains aggregate commitments of \$ 60.0 million from two FDIC-insured banking institutions (which may be increased to up to \$ 100.0 million in aggregate, subject to available borrowing base and additional commitments) which may be borrowed, repaid and redrawn, subject to a borrowing base based on eligible loan obligations held by the Company and subject to the satisfaction of other conditions provided under the Revolving Credit Facility. Interest is payable on the Revolving Credit Facility at the greater of (1) the applicable base rate plus 0.50 % and (2) 4.50 %, as provided in the Revolving Credit Agreement, payable in cash in arrears. Upon entering into the Revolving Credit Agreement, the Company incurred a one-time commitment fee expense of approximately \$ 0.5 million, which was included in prepaid expenses and other assets on the Company's consolidated balance sheets and amortized over the life of the facility. Commencing on the six-month anniversary of the closing date, the Revolving Credit Facility has an unused line fee of 0.25 % per annum, payable semi-annually in arrears, which is included within interest expense in the Company's consolidated statements of operations. Based on the terms of the Revolving Credit Agreement, the unused line fee is waived if our average cash balance exceeds the minimum balance required per the Revolving Credit Agreement. During the years ended December 31, 2023 and 2022, we incurred approximately \$ 47.9 thousand and \$ 25.0 thousand in unused line fees, respectively. As of December 31, 2023 and 2022, outstanding borrowings under the Revolving Credit Facility was \$ 42.0 million and \$ 60.0 million, respectively, and \$ 18.0 million and zero was available for borrowing as of December 31, 2023 and 2022, respectively.

The obligations of the Company under the Revolving Credit Facility are secured by certain assets of the Company comprising of or relating to loan obligations designated for inclusion in the borrowing base. In addition, the Company is subject to various financial and other covenants, including: (1) liquidity of at least \$ 5.0 million, (2) annual debt service coverage of at least 1.5 to 1.0 and (3) secured debt not to exceed 25 % of total consolidated assets of the Company and its subsidiaries.

Termination of AFCF Finance Revolving Credit Facility

In July 2020, the Company obtained a secured revolving credit line (the "AFCF Revolving Credit Facility") from AFC Finance, LLC and Gamma Lending HoldCo LLC, each affiliates of the Company's management, secured by the assets of the Company. The AFCF Revolving Credit Facility originally had a loan commitment of \$ 40.0 million at an interest rate of 8 % per annum, payable in cash in arrears. The maturity date of the AFCF Revolving Credit Facility was the earlier of (i) July 31, 2021 and (ii) the date of the closing of any credit facility where the proceeds are incurred to refund, refinance or replace the AFCF Revolving Credit Agreement, in accordance with terms of the credit agreement governing the AFCF Revolving Credit Facility (the "AFCF Revolving Credit Agreement").

On May 7, 2021, the Company amended the AFCF Revolving Credit Agreement (the "First Amendment"). The First Amendment (i) increased the loan commitment from \$ 40.0 million to \$ 50.0 million, (ii) decreased the interest rate from 8 % per annum to 6 % per annum, (iii) removed Gamma Lending HoldCo LLC as a lender and (iv) extended the maturity date from July 31, 2021 to the earlier of (A) December 31, 2021 or (B) the date of the closing of any refinancing credit facility.

On November 3, 2021, the Company entered into the Second Amendment to the AFCF Revolving Credit Agreement (the "Second Amendment"). Under the Second Amendment, payments to AFC Finance, LLC for interest, commitment fees and unused fees (net applicable taxes) were required to be paid directly or indirectly through AFC Finance, LLC to charitable organizations designated by AFC Finance, LLC. The Second Amendment also (i) increased the loan commitment from \$ 50.0 million to \$ 75.0 million, (ii) decreased the interest rate from 6 % per annum to 4.75 % per annum, (iii) introduced a one-time commitment fee of 0.25 %, to be paid in three equal quarterly installments, and an unused line fee of 0.25 % per annum, to be paid quarterly in arrears, (iv) provided an optional buyout provision for the holders of the 2027 Senior Notes upon an event of default under the AFCF Revolving Credit Agreement and (v) extended the fixed element of the maturity date from December 31, 2021 to September 30, 2022. Pursuant to the Second Amendment, the Company incurred a one-time commitment fee expense of approximately \$ 0.2 million in November 2021, payable in three quarterly installments that began in the first quarter of 2022, which was amortized over the life of the loan.

On April 29, 2022, upon the Company's entry into the Revolving Credit Facility, the Company terminated the AFCF Revolving Credit Agreement. In connection with the termination, the Company paid the remaining amount of the commitment fee outstanding of approximately \$ 0.1 million and accelerated the remaining deferred financing costs of approximately \$ 0.1 million in the second quarter of 2022. There were no other payments, premiums or penalties required to be paid in connection with the termination.

2027 Senior Notes

On November 3, 2021, the Company issued \$ 100.0 million in aggregate principal amount of senior unsecured notes due in May 2027 (the "2027 Senior Notes"). The 2027 Senior Notes accrue interest at a rate of 5.75 % per annum. Interest on the 2027 Senior Notes is due semi-annually on May 1 and November 1 of each year, which began on May 1, 2022. The net proceeds from the offering were approximately \$ 97.0 million, after deducting the initial purchasers' discounts and commissions and estimated offering fees and expenses payable by the Company. The Company used the proceeds from the issuance of the 2027 Senior Notes (i) to fund loans related to unfunded commitments to existing borrowers, (ii) to originate and participate in commercial loans to companies operating in the cannabis industry that are consistent with the Company's investment strategy and (iii) for working capital and other general corporate purposes. The terms of the 2027 Senior Notes are governed by an indenture, dated November 3, 2021, among us, as issuer, and TMI Trust Company, as trustee (the "Indenture").

Under the Indenture, the Company is required to cause all of its existing and future subsidiaries to guarantee the 2027 Senior Notes, other than certain immaterial subsidiaries as set forth in the Indenture. Subsequent to the Company's investment in the senior secured loan to Private Company I being transferred to TRS1 on April 1, 2022, TRS1 was added as a subsidiary guarantor under the Indenture.

Prior to February 1, 2027, the Company may redeem the 2027 Senior Notes in whole or in part, at a price equal to the greater of 100 % of the principal amount of the 2027 Senior Notes being redeemed or a make-whole premium set forth in the Indenture, plus accrued and unpaid interest thereon to, but excluding, the applicable redemption date. On or after February 1, 2027, we may redeem the 2027 Senior Notes in whole or in part at a price equal to 100 % of the principal amount of the 2027 Senior Notes being redeemed, plus accrued and unpaid interest, if any, to, but excluding, the applicable redemption date. The Indenture also requires us to offer to purchase all of the 2027 Senior Notes at a purchase price equal to 101 % of the principal amount of the 2027 Senior Notes, plus accrued and unpaid interest if a "change of control triggering event" (as defined in the Indenture) occurs.

The Indenture contains customary terms and restrictions, subject to a number of exceptions and qualifications, including restrictions on the Company's ability to (1) incur additional indebtedness unless the Annual Debt Service Charge (as defined in the Indenture) is no less than 1.5 to 1.0, (2) incur or maintain total debt in an aggregate principal amount greater than 60 % of the Company's consolidated Total Assets (as defined in the Indenture), (3) incur or maintain secured debt in an aggregate principal amount greater than 25 % of the Company's consolidated Total Assets (as defined in the Indenture), and (4) merge, consolidate or sell substantially all of the Company's assets. In addition, the Indenture also provides for customary events of default. If any event of default occurs, any amount then outstanding under the Indenture may immediately become due and payable. These events of default are subject to a number of important exceptions and qualifications set forth in the Indenture.

During the year ended December 31, 2023, the Company repurchased \$ 10.0 million in principal amount of the Company's 2027 Senior Notes at 77.4 % of par value, plus accrued interest. This resulted in a gain on extinguishment of debt of approximately \$ 2.0 million, recorded within the consolidated statements of operations. No repurchases took place during the year ended December 31, 2022. As of December 31, 2023 and 2022, the Company had \$ 90.0 million and \$ 100.0 million in principal amount of the 2027 Senior Notes outstanding, respectively.

The 2027 Senior Notes are due on May 1, 2027. Scheduled principal payments on the 2027 Senior Notes as of December 31, 2023 are as follows:

	2027 Senior Notes
Year	
2024	\$ —
2025	—
2026	—
2027	90,000,000
2028	—
Thereafter	—
Total principal	90,000,000
Deferred financing costs included in senior notes	(1,985,442)
Total due senior notes, net	\$ 88,014,558

The following tables reflect a summary of interest expense incurred during the years ended December 31, 2023 and 2022:

	Year ended December 31, 2023			
	2027 Senior Notes	Revolving Credit Facility	AFCF Revolving Credit Facility	Total Borrowings
Interest expense	\$ 5,290,000	\$ 68,667	\$ —	\$ 5,358,667
Unused fee expense	—	47,915	—	47,915
Amortization of deferred financing costs	641,662	309,213	—	950,875
Total interest expense	\$ 5,931,662	\$ 425,795	\$ —	\$ 6,357,457

	Year ended December 31, 2022			
	2027 Senior Notes	Revolving Credit Facility	AFCF Revolving Credit Facility	Total Borrowings
Interest expense	\$ 5,734,027	\$ 53,333	\$ 19,792	\$ 5,807,152
Unused fee expense	—	25,000	60,417	85,417
Amortization of deferred financing costs	659,120	107,741	154,645	921,506
Total interest expense	\$ 6,393,147	\$ 186,074	\$ 234,854	\$ 6,814,075

10. COMMITMENTS AND CONTINGENCIES

As of December 31, 2023 and 2022, the Company had the following commitments to fund various investments:

	As of December 31,	
	2023	2022
Total original loan commitments	\$ 431,239,913	\$ 447,101,864
Less: drawn commitments	(421,239,913)	(401,476,418)
Total undrawn commitments	\$ 10,000,000	\$ 45,625,446

The Company from time to time may be a party to litigation in the normal course of business. As of December 31, 2023, the Company is not aware of any legal claims that could materially impact its business, financial condition or results of operations.

On March 17, 2023, the Company appointed Brandon Hetzel to serve as its Chief Financial Officer and Treasurer in place of Brett Kaufman, effective as of such date, with Mr. Kaufman's employment with AFC Management, LLC, the Company's external manager (the "Manager"), terminated, effective as of April 17, 2023 (the "Separation Date"). In connection with his termination, Mr. Kaufman will receive (i) twelve (12) months' worth of his current base salary, (ii) his annual target bonus, (iii) continued payment by our Manager of 100 % of the COBRA premiums for him and his dependents for a period of twelve (12) months following his Separation Date, (iv) accelerated vesting of one (1) additional tranche of each of Mr. Kaufman's outstanding equity awards, and (v) extension of the exercise period for Mr. Kaufman's outstanding options until one (1) year following the Separation Date, contingent on Mr. Kaufman executing and not revoking a release of claims in favor of the Company. During the years ended December 31, 2023 and 2022, the Company recorded approximately \$ 0.7 million and zero in severance expense, recorded within general and administrative expenses within the consolidated statements of operations, respectively.

The Company primarily provides loans to companies operating in the cannabis industry which involves significant risks, including the risk of strict enforcement against the Company's borrowers on the federal illegality of cannabis, the Company's borrowers' inability to renew or otherwise maintain their licenses or other requisite authorizations for their cannabis operations, and such loans lack of liquidity, and the Company could lose all or part of any of the Company's loans.

The Company's ability to grow or maintain its business with respect to the loans it makes to companies operating in the cannabis industry depends on state laws pertaining to the cannabis industry. New laws that are adverse to the Company's borrowers may be enacted, and current favorable state or national laws or enforcement guidelines relating to cultivation, production and distribution of cannabis may be modified or eliminated in the future, which would impede the Company's ability to grow and could materially adversely affect the Company's business.

Management's plan to mitigate risks include monitoring the legal landscape as deemed appropriate. Also, should a loan default or otherwise be seized, the Company may be prohibited from owning cannabis assets and thus could not take possession of collateral, in which case the Company would look to sell the loan, which could result in the Company realizing a loss on the transaction.

11. SHAREHOLDERS' EQUITY

Series A Preferred Stock

As of December 31, 2023 and 2022, the Company has authorized 10,000 preferred shares and issued 125 of the preferred shares designated as 12.0 % Series A Cumulative Non-Voting Preferred Stock, par value \$ 0.01 per share (the "Series A Preferred Stock").

The Series A Preferred Stock entitles the holders thereof to receive cumulative cash dividends at a rate per annum of 12.0 % of the liquidation preference of \$ 1,000 per share plus all accumulated and unpaid dividends thereon. The Company generally may not declare or pay, or set apart for payment, any dividend or other distribution on any shares of the Company's stock ranking junior to the Series A Preferred Stock as to dividends, including the Company's common stock, or redeem, repurchase or otherwise make payments on any such shares, unless full, cumulative dividends on all outstanding shares of Series A Preferred Stock have been declared and paid or set apart for payment for all past dividend periods. The holders of the Series A Preferred Stock generally have no voting rights except in limited circumstances, including certain amendments to the Company's charter and the authorization or issuance of equity securities senior to or on parity with the Series A Preferred Stock. The Series A Preferred Stock is not convertible into shares of any other class or series of our stock. The Series A Preferred Stock is senior to all other classes and series of shares of the Company's stock as to dividend and redemption rights and rights upon the Company's liquidation, dissolution and winding up.

Upon written notice to each record holder of the Series A Preferred Stock as to the effective date of redemption, the Company may redeem the shares of the outstanding Series A Preferred Stock at the Company's option, in whole or in part, at any time for cash at a redemption price equal to \$ 1,000 per share, for a total of \$ 125,000 for the 125 shares outstanding, plus all accrued and unpaid dividends thereon up to and including the date fixed for redemption. Shares of the Series A Preferred Stock that are redeemed shall no longer be deemed outstanding shares of the Company and all rights of the holders of such shares will terminate.

Common Stock

On January 10, 2022, the Company completed an underwritten offering of 3,000,000 shares of our common stock, at a price to the public of \$ 20.50 per share. The gross proceeds to the Company from the offering were \$ 61.5 million, before deducting underwriting discounts and commissions, a structuring fee and offering expenses payable by the Company. In connection with the offering, the underwriters were granted an over-allotment option to purchase up to an additional 450,000 shares of the Company's common stock. On January 14, 2022, the underwriters partially exercised the over-allotment option with respect to 291,832 shares of common stock, which was completed on January 19, 2022. The underwriting commissions of approximately \$ 3.5 million were reflected as a reduction of additional paid-in capital in the first quarter of fiscal year 2022. The Company incurred approximately \$ 1.0 million of expenses in connection with the offering. After giving effect to the partial exercise of the over-allotment option, the total number of shares sold by the Company in the public offering was 3,291,832 shares and total gross proceeds, before deducting underwriting discounts and commissions, a structuring fee and other offering expenses payable by the Company, were approximately \$ 67.5 million. The net proceeds to the Company totaled approximately \$ 63.0 million.

Pursuant to the Articles of Amendment, dated March 10, 2022, the Company increased the number of authorized shares of common stock to 50,000,000 shares at \$ 0.01 par value per share.

Shelf Registration Statement

On April 5, 2022, the Company filed a shelf registration statement on Form S-3 (File No. 333-264144) (the "Shelf Registration Statement"), which was declared effective on April 18, 2022. Under the Shelf Registration Statement, the Company may, from time to time, issue and sell up to \$ 1.0 billion of the Company's common stock, preferred stock, debt securities, warrants and rights (including as part of a unit) to purchase shares of the Company's common stock or preferred stock.

At-the-Market Offering Program ("ATM Program")

On April 5, 2022, the Company entered into an Open Market Sales Agreement (the "Sales Agreement") with Jefferies LLC and JMP Securities LLC, as Sales Agents, under which the Company may, from time to time, offer and sell shares of common stock, having an aggregate offering price of up to \$ 75.0 million. Under the terms of the Sales Agreement, the Company has agreed to pay the Sales Agents a commission of up to 3.0 % of the gross proceeds from each sale of common stock sold through the Sales Agents. Sales of common stock, if any, may be made in transactions that are deemed to be "at-the-market" offerings, as defined in Rule 415(a)(4) promulgated under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended (the "Securities Act"). During the year ended December 31, 2023, the Company did not sell any shares of the Company's common stock under the Sales Agreement. During the year ended December 31, 2022, the Company sold an aggregate of 621,398 shares of the Company's common stock under the Sales Agreement at an average price of \$ 18.30 per share generating net proceeds of approximately \$ 10.4 million.

As of December 31, 2023, the shares of common stock sold under the ATM Program are the only offerings that have been initiated under the Shelf Registration Statement.

Share Repurchase Program

On June 13, 2023, the Company's Board of Directors authorized a share repurchase program providing for the repurchase of up to \$ 20.0 million of the Company's outstanding common stock (the "Repurchase Program"). The timing, price, and volume of repurchases will be based on the Company's stock price, general market conditions, applicable legal requirements and other factors. The repurchase of the Company's common stock may be made from time to time in the open market, in privately negotiated transactions or otherwise in compliance with Rule 10b-18 and Rule 10b5-1 under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934. The Company expects to finance any share repurchases under the Repurchase Program using cash on hand, capacity available under our line of credit and cash flows from operations. The Repurchase Program may be discontinued, modified or suspended at any time. During the year ended December 31, 2023, the Company did not repurchase any shares of its common stock pursuant to the Repurchase Program.

Stock Incentive Plan

The Company has established a stock incentive compensation plan (the “2020 Plan”). The 2020 Plan authorizes stock options, stock appreciation rights, restricted stock, stock bonuses, stock units and other forms of awards granted or denominated in the Company’s common stock or units of common stock. The 2020 Plan retains flexibility to offer competitive incentives and to tailor benefits to specific needs and circumstances. Any award may be structured to be paid or settled in cash. The Company has, and currently intends to continue to grant stock options to participants in the 2020 Plan, but it may also grant any other type of award available under the 2020 Plan in the future. Persons eligible to receive awards under the 2020 Plan include officers or employees of the Company or any of its subsidiaries, directors of the Company, employees of the Manager and certain directors and consultants and other service providers to the Company or any of its subsidiaries.

During the first quarter of 2022, the Company’s Board of Directors approved grants of restricted stock and stock options to the Company’s directors and officers, as well as employees of the Manager. In January 2022, the Company granted an aggregate of 8,296 shares of restricted stock and 742,000 stock options to certain of our officers and other eligible persons. The restricted stock granted in January 2022 under the 2020 Plan vests over a four-year period with approximately 33 % vesting on each of the second, third and fourth anniversaries of the vesting commencement date. The stock options granted in January 2022 under the 2020 Plan have a strike price of \$ 20.18 and contain vesting periods that vary from immediately vested to vesting over a four-year period.

During the first quarter of 2023, the Company’s Board of Directors approved grants of restricted stock to the Company’s directors and officers, as well as certain employees of the Manager. In January 2023, the Company granted an aggregate of 125,234 shares of restricted stock to certain of our directors, officers and other eligible persons. The restricted stock granted in January 2023 under the 2020 Plan contain vesting periods that vary from immediately vested to vesting over a three-year period, with approximately 33 % vesting on each of the first, second and third anniversaries of the vesting commencement date. On June 20, 2023, the Company granted 1,159 shares of restricted stock to James C. Fagan in connection with his recent appointment to the Company’s Board of Directors, which will vest upon the one-year anniversary of the grant date. As of December 31, 2023, there were 2,326,892 shares of common stock granted under the 2020 Plan, underlying 2,169,852 options and 157,040 shares of restricted stock.

As of December 31, 2023, the maximum number of shares of the Company’s common stock that may be delivered pursuant to awards under the 2020 Plan (the “Share Limit”) equals 2,793,288 shares, which is consistent with the Share Limit as of December 31, 2022. Shares that are subject to or underlie awards that expire or for any reason are cancelled, terminated, forfeited, fail to vest, or for any other reason are not paid or delivered under the 2020 Plan will not be counted against the Share Limit and will again be available for subsequent awards under the 2020 Plan.

The following table summarizes the (i) non-vested options granted, (ii) vested options granted, (iii) exercised and (iv) forfeited options granted for the Company’s directors and officers and employees of the Manager as of December 31, 2023 and 2022:

	As of December 31,	
	2023	2022
Non-vested	206,304	293,420
Vested	2,168,328	2,081,212
Exercised	(5,511)	(5,511)
Forfeited	(200,169)	(88,749)
Balance	2,168,952	2,280,372

The Company uses the Black-Scholes option pricing model to value stock options in determining the stock-based compensation expense. The Company has elected to recognize forfeitures as they occur. Previously recognized compensation expense related to forfeitures are reversed in the period the nonvested awards are forfeited. The risk-free interest rate is based on the U.S. Treasury yield curve in effect at the date of grant. The expected dividend yield was based on the Company's expected dividend yield at the grant date. Expected volatility is based on the estimated average volatility of similar companies due to the lack of historical volatilities of the Company's common stock. Restricted stock grant expense is based on the Company's stock price at the time of the grant and amortized over the vesting period. The stock-based compensation expense for the Company was approximately \$ 1.0 million and \$ 1.3 million for the years ended December 31, 2023 and 2022, respectively.

The following table presents the assumptions used in the option pricing model of options granted under the 2020 Plan:

Assumptions	Range
Expected volatility	40 % - 50 %
Expected dividend yield	10 % - 20 %
Risk-free interest rate	0.5 % - 2.0 %
Expected forfeiture rate	0 %

The following tables summarize stock option activity as of and during the year ended December 31, 2023:

	Number of options	Weighted-average exercise price	Weighted-average remaining contractual term	Aggregate intrinsic value
Outstanding as of December 31, 2022	2,280,372	\$ 17.75		
Granted	—	—		
Exercised	—	—		
Forfeited	(111,420)	17.98		
Outstanding as of December 31, 2023	2,168,952	\$ 17.74	4.27 years	\$ —
Exercisable as of December 31, 2023	2,079,171	\$ 17.67	4.25 years	\$ —

The Company did not grant any options during the year ended December 31, 2023. The weighted-average grant date value of options granted during the year ended December 31, 2022 was \$ 1.46 . The total intrinsic value of options exercised during the year ended December 31, 2022 was approximately \$ 3.3 thousand.

As of December 31, 2023, there was approximately \$ 45.2 thousand of total unrecognized compensation cost related to non-vested stock options. That cost is expected to be recognized over a weighted-average period of 0.68 years.

The following table summarizes the non-vested restricted stock (i) granted, (ii) vested and (iii) forfeited for the Company's directors and officers and employees of the Manager as of December 31, 2023 and 2022:

	As of December 31,	
	2023	2022
Granted	190,974	64,581
Vested	(38,028)	—
Forfeited	(33,934)	(1,238)
Balance	119,012	63,343

The fair value of the Company's restricted stock awards is based on the Company's stock price on the date of grant. The following tables summarize the restricted stock activity as of and during the year ended December 31, 2023:

	Number of shares of restricted stock	Weighted-average grant date fair value
Balance as of December 31, 2022	63,343	\$ 20.40
Granted	126,393	15.55
Vested	(38,028)	18.03
Forfeited	(32,696)	20.39
Balance as of December 31, 2023	119,012	\$ 16.06

As of December 31, 2023, there was approximately \$ 1.2 million of total unrecognized compensation cost related to non-vested restricted stock. That cost is expected to be recognized over a weighted-average period of 0.96 years. The total fair value of shares vested during the year ended December 31, 2023 was approximately \$ 0.5 million. No shares of restricted stock vested during the year ended December 31, 2022.

12. EARNINGS PER SHARE

The following information sets forth the computations of basic and diluted weighted average earnings per common share for the years ended December 31, 2023 and 2022:

	Years ended December 31,	
	2023	2022
Net income attributable to common shareholders	\$ 20,951,999	\$ 35,932,397
Dividends paid on preferred shares	(15,000)	(15,000)
Dividends paid on unvested restricted stock	(262,394)	(135,299)
Net income attributable to common shareholders	20,674,605	35,782,098
Divided by:		
Basic weighted average shares of common stock outstanding	20,321,091	19,842,222
Weighted average unvested restricted stock and dilutive stock options	24,828	115,515
Diluted weighted average shares of common stock outstanding	20,345,919	19,957,737
Basic weighted average earnings per common share	\$ 1.02	\$ 1.80
Diluted weighted average earnings per common share	\$ 1.02	\$ 1.79

Diluted EPS was computed using the treasury stock method for stock options and restricted stock. Diluted weighted average earnings per common share excluded 2,336,146 and 1,401,200 weighted average unvested restricted stock and stock options due to anti-dilutive effect for the years ended December 31, 2023 and 2022, respectively .

13. INCOME TAX

A TRS is an entity taxed as a corporation that has not elected to be taxed as a REIT, in which a REIT directly or indirectly holds equity, and that has made a joint election with such REIT to be treated as a TRS. A TRS generally may engage in any business, including investing in assets and engaging in activities that could not be held or conducted directly by the Company without jeopardizing its qualification as a REIT. A TRS is subject to applicable United States federal, state and local income tax on its taxable income. In addition, as a REIT, the Company also may be subject to a 100% excise tax on certain transactions between it and its TRS that are not conducted on an arm's-length basis. The income tax provision is included in the line item income tax expense, including excise tax.

The income tax provision for the Company was approximately \$ 1.7 million and \$ 1.0 million for the years ended December 31, 2023 and 2022, respectively. The income tax expense for the years ended December 31, 2023 and 2022 primarily related to activities of the Company's taxable REIT subsidiary.

The income tax provision for the Company and TRS1 consisted of the following for the years ended December 31, 2023 and 2022:

	Years ended December 31,	
	2023	2022
Current ⁽¹⁾	\$ 1,546,216	\$ 953,324
Deferred	—	—
Excise tax	113,121	73,000
Total income tax expense, including excise tax	\$ 1,659,337	\$ 1,026,324

(1) During the year ended December 31, 2023, the Company incurred federal taxes of approximately \$ 1.2 million and state and local taxes of approximately \$ 0.3 million. During the year ended December 31, 2022, the Company incurred federal taxes of approximately \$ 0.8 million and state and local taxes of approximately \$ 0.2 million.

For the years ended December 31, 2023 and 2022, the Company incurred approximately \$ 0.1 million and \$ 0.1 million, respectively, for United States federal excise tax. Excise tax represents a 4 % tax on the sum of a portion of the Company's ordinary income and net capital gains not distributed during the period. If it is determined that an excise tax liability exists for the current period, the Company will accrue excise tax on estimated excess taxable income as such taxable income is earned. The expense is calculated in accordance with applicable tax regulations.

The Company does not have any unrecognized tax benefits and the Company does not expect that to change in the next 12 months.

14. FAIR VALUE

Loans Held for Investment

The Company's loans are typically valued using a yield analysis, which is typically performed for non-credit impaired loans to borrowers where the Company does not own a controlling equity position. Alternative valuation methodologies may be used as appropriate, and can include a market analysis, income analysis, or recovery analysis. To determine fair value using a yield analysis, a current price is imputed for the loan based upon an assessment of the expected market yield for a similarly structured loan with a similar level of risk. In the yield analysis, the Company considers the current contractual interest rate, the maturity and other terms of the loan relative to risk of the company and the specific loan. A key determinant of risk, among other things, is the leverage through the loan relative to the enterprise value of the borrower. As loans held by the Company are substantially illiquid with no active loan market, the Company depends on primary market data, including newly funded loans, as well as secondary market data with respect to high-yield debt instruments and syndicated loans, as inputs in determining the appropriate market yield, as applicable.

The following tables present fair value measurements of loans held at fair value as of December 31, 2023 and 2022:

Fair Value Measurement as of December 31, 2023				
	Total	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3
Loans held at fair value	\$ 61,720,705	\$ —	\$ —	\$ 61,720,705
Total	\$ 61,720,705	\$ —	\$ —	\$ 61,720,705

Fair Value Measurement as of December 31, 2022				
	Total	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3
Loans held at fair value	\$ 99,226,051	\$ —	\$ —	\$ 99,226,051
Total	\$ 99,226,051	\$ —	\$ —	\$ 99,226,051

The following table presents changes in loans that use Level 3 inputs as of and for the year ended December 31, 2023:

	Year ended December 31, 2023
Total loans using Level 3 inputs at December 31, 2022	\$ 99,226,051
Realized gains (losses) on loans at fair value, net	(1,213,416)
Change in unrealized gains (losses) on loans at fair value, net	(8,513,364)
Additional fundings	1,881,840
Loan repayments	(34,900,946)
Accretion of original issue discount	1,501,162
PIK interest	3,739,378
Total loans using Level 3 inputs at December 31, 2023	\$ 61,720,705

The change in unrealized losses included in the consolidated statements of operations attributable to loans held at fair value, categorized as Level 3, held as of December 31, 2023 is \$(9,726,780).

The following tables summarize the significant unobservable inputs the Company used to value the loans categorized within Level 3 as of December 31, 2023 and 2022. The tables are not intended to be all-inclusive, but instead capture the significant unobservable inputs relevant to the Company's determination of fair values.

As of December 31, 2023					
			Unobservable Input		
	Fair Value	Primary Valuation Techniques	Input	Estimated Range	Weighted Average
Senior term loans	\$ 47,627,845	Recovery analysis	Recovery rate	86.10 % - 92.40 %	89.25 %
Senior term loans	14,092,860	Market approach	Revenue multiple	0.50 x - 0.70 x	0.60 x
Total investments	\$ 61,720,705				

As of December 31, 2022					
			Unobservable Input		
	Fair Value	Primary Valuation Techniques	Input	Estimated Range	Weighted Average
Senior term loans	\$ 99,226,051	Yield analysis	Market yield	19.99 % - 31.72 %	21.81 %
Total investments	\$ 99,226,051				

Changes in market yields, revenue multiples, and recovery rates may change the fair value of certain of the Company's loans. Generally, an increase in market yields may result in a decrease in the fair value of certain of the Company's loans, while a decrease in revenue multiples and recovery rates may result in a decrease in the fair value of certain of the Company's loans.

Due to the inherent uncertainty of determining the fair value of loans that do not have a readily available market value, the fair value of the Company's loans may fluctuate from period to period. Additionally, the fair value of the Company's loans may differ significantly from the values that would have been used had a ready market existed for such loans and may differ materially from the values that the Company may ultimately realize. Further, such loans are generally subject to legal and other restrictions on resale or otherwise are less liquid than publicly traded securities. If the Company was required to liquidate a loan in a forced or liquidation sale, it could realize significantly less than the value at which the Company has recorded it.

In addition, changes in the market environment and other events that may occur over the life of the loans may cause the gains or losses ultimately realized on these loans to be different than the unrealized gains or losses reflected in the valuations currently assigned.

Investment in Marketable Securities

As of December 31, 2023 and 2022, the Company's portfolio did not include any debt securities. For the years ended December 31, 2023 and 2022, the realized loss on the sale of debt securities was approximately zero and \$(0.2) million, respectively.

Fair Value of Financial Instruments

GAAP requires disclosure of fair value information about financial instruments, whether or not recognized at fair value in the balance sheet, for which it is practicable to estimate that value.

The following table details the book value and fair value of the Company's financial instruments not recognized at fair value in the consolidated balance sheets as of December 31, 2023:

	As of December 31, 2023	
	Carrying Value	Fair Value
Financial assets:		
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 121,626,453	\$ 121,626,453
Loans held for investment at carrying value	\$ 301,265,398	\$ 275,070,876
Loan receivable held at carrying value	\$ 2,040,058	\$ 510,436
Financial liabilities:		
Senior notes payable, net	\$ 88,014,558	\$ 78,525,000

Estimates of fair value for cash and cash equivalents are measured using observable, quoted market prices, or Level 1 inputs. The Company's loans held for investment are measured using unobservable inputs, or Level 3 inputs. The fair value of the Company's 2027 Senior Notes is estimated by discounting expected cash flows using readily available quoted prices for similar debt, or Level 2 inputs.

15. RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS

Management Agreement

Pursuant to the Management Agreement, the Manager manages the loans and day-to-day operations of the Company, subject at all times to the further terms and conditions set forth in the Management Agreement and such further limitations or parameters as may be imposed from time to time by the Company's Board.

The Manager receives base management fees (the "Base Management Fee") that are calculated and payable quarterly in arrears, in an amount equal to 0.375 % of the Company's Equity (as defined in the Management Agreement), subject to certain adjustments, less 50 % of the aggregate amount of any other fees ("Outside Fees"), including any agency fees relating to our loans, but excluding the Incentive Compensation (as defined below) and any diligence fees paid to and earned by the Manager and paid by third parties in connection with the Manager's due diligence of potential loans.

In addition to the Base Management Fee, the Manager is entitled to receive incentive compensation (the "Incentive Compensation" or "Incentive Fees") under the Management Agreement. Under the Management Agreement, the Company pays Incentive Fees to the Manager based upon the Company's achievement of targeted levels of Core Earnings. "Core Earnings" is defined in the Management Agreement as, for a given period means the net income (loss) for such period, computed in accordance with GAAP, excluding (i) non-cash equity compensation expense, (ii) the Incentive Compensation, (iii) depreciation and amortization, (iv) any unrealized gains or losses or other non-cash items that are included in net income for the applicable reporting period, regardless of whether such items are included in other comprehensive income or loss, or in net income and (v) one-time events pursuant to changes in GAAP and certain non-cash charges, in each case after discussions between the Manager and the Company's independent directors and approved by a majority of the independent directors.

The Incentive Compensation for the years ended December 31, 2023 and 2022, was approximately \$ 10.4 million and \$ 12.3 million, respectively.

The Company shall pay all of its costs and expenses and shall reimburse the Manager or its affiliates for expenses of the Manager and its affiliates paid or incurred on behalf of the Company, excepting only those expenses that are specifically the responsibility of the Manager pursuant to the Management Agreement. With respect to certain office expenses incurred by the Manager on behalf of the Company and other funds managed by the Manager or its affiliates, such as rent, the Manager determines each fund's pro rata portion of such expenses in an amount equal to the proportional amount of time employees of the Manager spent providing services to the Company, as reasonably stipulated by time sheets.

The following table summarizes the related party costs incurred by the Company for the years ended December 31, 2023 and 2022:

	Years ended December 31,	
	2023	2022
Affiliate Costs		
Management fees	\$ 5,395,617	\$ 5,213,535
Less: outside fees earned	(1,693,133)	(1,785,916)
Base management fees	3,702,484	3,427,619
Incentive fees earned	10,361,821	12,337,631
General and administrative expenses reimbursable to Manager	3,590,594	3,976,312
Total	\$ 17,654,899	\$ 19,741,562

Amounts payable to the Manager as of December 31, 2023 and 2022 were approximately \$ 5.0 million and \$ 5.7 million, respectively.

Due to Affiliate

Amounts due to an affiliate of the Company as of December 31, 2023 and 2022 were approximately \$ 16.4 thousand and \$ 18.1 thousand, respectively.

Investments in Loans

From time to time, the Company may co-invest with other investment vehicles managed by the Manager or its affiliates, including the Manager, and their portfolio companies, including by means of splitting loans, participating in loans or other means of syndicating loans. The Company is not obligated to provide, nor has it provided, any financial support to the other managed investment vehicles. As such, the Company's risk is limited to the carrying value of its investment in any such loan. Additionally, our Manager or its affiliates, including AFC Agent LLC ("AFC Agent"), may from time to time serve as administrative agent to the lenders under our co-investments. As of December 31, 2023, there were four co-invested loans held by the Company and affiliates of the Company.

In July 2021, the senior secured loan facility with Private Company I, consisting of an aggregate of \$ 15.5 million in loan commitments, was syndicated by the Manager between the Company and A BDC Warehouse, LLC ("ABW"), an entity wholly-owned by the Company's Chief Executive Officer and Chairman of the Board and President. ABW's commitment in the loan facility was ultimately transferred to AFC Institutional Fund LLC ("AFCIF"), an entity beneficially owned in part, by the Company's (i) Chief Executive Officer and Chairman of the Board, (ii) President and (iii) former Head of Real Estate and a former Director, while each such owner also maintained a beneficial ownership of the Manager at the time of the investment. AFCIF holds approximately one-third of the loan's aggregate principal amount as of December 31, 2023. On April 1, 2022, the Company's investment in the senior secured loan to Private Company I was transferred to TRS1. In May 2023, Private Company I failed to pay its full principal and interest payments due May 1, 2023. The agent on the credit facility, AFC Agent, promptly delivered a notice of an event of default based on this payment default and certain other defaults under the credit agreement, accelerated all obligations due thereunder and subsequently initiated a foreclosing procedure in the State of Maryland. In June 2023, the Company sold two-thirds of the Private Company I credit facility at par plus accrued interest to a multi-state cannabis operator and the Company has a put right on the remaining one-third immediately prior to the transfer of one of the borrower's cannabis licenses. As of December 31, 2023, the Company's outstanding principal balance was approximately \$ 3.8 million, which is fully funded.

In September 2021, the Company entered into the September Commitment Assignment with our Manager, pursuant to which our Manager assigned to us its commitment to make loans to Private Company A in a principal amount of up to \$ 20.0 million, which was funded in September 2021. The loans were purchased at accreted cost plus accrued PIK interest. We did not pay any fees or premium to our Manager for the Company's acquisition of the Manager's loan commitments under the Credit Agreement with Private Company A pursuant to the September Commitment Assignment. In December 2021, the Company entered into the second amendment to the Private Company A Credit Facility to, among other things, increase the total loan commitments by \$ 20.0 million in an additional tranche, with \$ 2.5 million allocated to Flower Loan Holdco, LLC ("FLH"), an entity wholly-owned by the Company's Chief Investment Officer and Executive Chairman of the Board and President, and the remaining new commitment allocated to third-party lenders. In February 2022, the Company entered into the third amendment to the Private Company A Credit Facility to, among other things, increase the total loan commitments by \$ 16.3 million in an additional tranche, with approximately \$ 15.3 million allocated to the Company and approximately \$ 1.0 million allocated to a third-party lender. In November 2022, the Company entered into a fourth amendment to the Private Company A Credit Facility to, among other things, increase the total loan commitments by \$ 10.0 million in an additional tranche, with approximately \$ 7.1 million allocated to the Company, \$ 1.4 million allocated to FLH and the remaining \$ 1.5 million allocated to third-party lenders. In March 2023, the Company entered into a fifth amendment to the Private Company A Credit Facility to, among other things and subject to certain terms and conditions, (i) increase the interest rate of certain tranches such that the facility has a uniform interest rate of 13.0 % across certain tranches; (ii) reprioritize the allocation of principal and interest payments to first be applied to a specific tranche under the facility; and (iii) establish the requirement for a blocked account to hold the cash proceeds from the sale of certain assets and distribute such proceeds to the lenders. In October 2023, AFC Agent delivered a notice of default to Private Company A based on certain financial and other covenant defaults and began charging additional default interest of 5.0 %, beginning as of July 1, 2023, in accordance with the terms of the Private Company A Credit Facility. In November 2023, Private Company A was placed into receivership to maintain the borrower's operations and maximize value for the benefit of its creditors. The court-appointed receiver began liquidating certain assets for the benefit of the creditors. During the year ended December 31, 2023, AFC Agent received approximately \$ 48.2 million in total loan principal prepayments and \$ 1.4 million in related exit fees from the borrower's sale of some of its collateral assets, of which approximately \$ 34.7 million in principal prepayments and \$ 1.1 million in related exit fees were allocated to the Company relating to its pro rata portion of the Private Company A Credit Facility and was applied to the outstanding principal balance. As of December 31, 2023, the Company's outstanding principal balance was approximately \$ 53.4 million, which is fully funded.

In September 2021, the Company entered into the second amended and restated credit agreement with Subsidiary of Private Company G to, among other things, increase the total loan commitments by \$ 53.4 million in three tranches, with approximately \$ 10.0 million allocated to ABW and the remaining \$ 43.4 million allocated to the Company. ABW's commitment was ultimately transferred to AFCIF. In August 2022, the Company committed an additional \$ 8.1 million under credit agreement with Subsidiary of Private Company G. Following the expansion, the Company now holds \$ 73.5 million in commitments. Subsidiary of Private Company G failed to make its cash interest payment due July 1, 2023 in arrears for the month of June, and the Company placed the borrower on non-accrual from June 1, 2023 to August 31, 2023. In connection therewith, the Company initiated a consensual foreclosure proceeding with respect to certain of the borrower's assets in Pennsylvania, with the expectation that the net cash proceeds of the public auction would be used to prepay a portion of the principal outstanding under the credit facility. On September 6, 2023, the foreclosure proceeding was adjourned indefinitely. The Company subsequently entered into a forbearance agreement with Subsidiary of Private Company G in September 2023, which carves out the consensual foreclosure proceeding described above, pursuant to which the Company agreed to forbear from exercising certain remedies as a result of certain defaults under the credit agreement. In exchange for such forbearance, Subsidiary of Private Company G agreed to, among other things, sell certain assets, including certain collateral, the proceeds of which will be applied to the outstanding obligations under the credit agreement with Private Company G, to provide certain additional collateral, and to contribute additional cash equity to be held in escrow by AFC Agent. As amended by the forbearance agreement entered into with Subsidiary of Private Company G, the borrower was required to pay interest of \$ 0.8 million pro rata to the lender group for the month of September and to pay \$ 1.0 million pro rata to the lender group for each of the months of October, November, and December 2023. Subsidiary of Private Company G paid September, October, and November interest in accordance with the terms of the forbearance agreement, which was due October 1, 2023, November 1, 2023, and December 1, 2023, respectively, and the credit facility was restored to accrual status. During the fourth quarter of 2023, AFC Agent received \$ 1.5 million from the sale of some of the collateral assets of Subsidiary of Private Company G, of which approximately \$ 1.3 million was allocated to the Company and applied to the outstanding interest balance. Subsidiary of Private Company G did not make its cash interest payment due January 1, 2024 in arrears for the month of December, and the Company placed the borrower on non-accrual status as of December 1, 2023 and will recognize income related to loan activity only upon receipt of cash. Refer to Note 17 to the Company's consolidated financial statements for more information on Subsidiary of Private Company G forbearance agreement that was entered into subsequent to December 31, 2023. As of December 31, 2023, the Company's outstanding principal balance under the credit facility with Subsidiary of Private Company G was approximately \$ 79.2 million, which is fully funded.

In December 2021, the Company entered into a credit agreement with Subsidiary of Public Company H, which provides Subsidiary of Public Company H with a \$ 100.0 million senior secured credit facility, of which, we committed \$ 60.0 million, a predecessor-in-interest to AFCIF committed \$ 10.0 million, and third-party lenders committed \$ 30.0 million of the aggregate principal amount. In October 2022, the credit agreement with Subsidiary of Public Company H was amended to, among other things, increase the total loan commitment by \$ 50.0 million, of which \$ 30.0 million of the new loan commitment was allocated pro rata to the Company, \$ 5.0 million was allocated to AFCIF and the remaining \$ 15.0 million was allocated to a third-party lender. In April 2023, the credit agreement with Subsidiary of Public Company H was amended to, among other things, (i) reduce the total loan commitment by \$ 10.0 million ratably amongst the lenders, including the Company, of which \$ 6.0 million of the reduced commitment was allocated to the Company and \$ 9.0 million of additional principal was funded by the Company, (ii) strengthen the real estate coverage covenants and (iii) require certain conditions precedent be met prior to disbursing funds to construction projects. Following the amendment, the Company held \$ 84.0 million in commitments. As of December 31, 2023, the Company's outstanding principal balance under the credit facility with Subsidiary of Public Company H was \$ 84.0 million, which is fully funded.

In September 2023, Mr. Berman purchased a 3.0 % membership interest in certain income of the Manager. In January 2024, Mr. Neville purchased a 1.6 % membership interest in certain income of the Manager.

Secured Revolving Credit Facility From Affiliate

In April 2022, the Company terminated the AFCF Revolving Credit Facility. Refer to Note 9 .

16. DIVIDENDS AND DISTRIBUTIONS

The following table summarizes the Company's dividends declared during the years ended December 31, 2023 and 2022:

Declaration Date	Record Date	Payment Date	Common Share Distribution Amount	Taxable Ordinary Income	Qualified Dividends	Return of Capital	Section 199A Dividends
3/10/2022	3/31/2022	4/15/2022	\$ 0.55	\$ 0.55	\$ —	\$ —	\$ 0.55
6/15/2022	6/30/2022	7/15/2022	0.56	0.56	—	—	0.56
9/15/2022	9/30/2022	10/14/2022	0.56	0.56	—	—	0.56
12/15/2022	12/31/2022	1/13/2023	0.56	0.56	—	—	0.56
2022 Total cash dividend			\$ 2.23	\$ 2.23	\$ —	\$ —	\$ 2.23
3/2/2023	3/31/2023	4/14/2023	\$ 0.56	\$ 0.55	\$ 0.01	\$ —	\$ 0.55
6/15/2023	6/30/2023	7/14/2023	0.48	0.48	—	—	0.48
9/15/2023	9/30/2023	10/13/2023	0.48	0.36	0.12	—	0.36
12/15/2023	12/31/2023	1/12/2024	0.48	0.46	0.02	—	0.46
2023 Total cash dividend			\$ 2.00	\$ 1.85	\$ 0.15	\$ —	\$ 1.85

17. SUBSEQUENT EVENTS

The Company has evaluated subsequent events through the date the consolidated financial statements were available to be issued. There were no material subsequent events, other than those described below, that required disclosure in these consolidated financial statements.

On December 29, 2023, the Company drew \$ 42.0 million on the Company's Revolving Credit Facility. All outstanding borrowings on the Revolving Credit Facility were subsequently repaid in full on January 2, 2024.

In January 2024, the Company and an affiliate co-lender entered into a secured mezzanine loan with CRE Private Company A that was syndicated by the affiliate, consisting of an aggregate of \$ 56.4 million in loan commitments, of which \$ 28.2 million was funded by the Company and another \$ 28.2 million was provided by an affiliate. The Company and affiliate are each 50.0 % syndicate lenders in the secured mezzanine loan. The secured mezzanine loan bears interest at an annual rate of Secured Overnight Financing Rate ("SOFR") plus 15.31 % spread, subject to a SOFR floor of 2.42 %. At the end of January 2024, the Company and an affiliate entered into an amendment to the secured mezzanine loan with CRE Private Company A, which among other things, (1) extended the maturity date to May 31, 2024 and (2) amended the SOFR floor from 2.42 % to 4.00 %. Pursuant to the amendment, the Company and affiliate expect to receive an extension fee of approximately \$ 0.1 million each, respectively.

In January 2024, the Company and an affiliate entered into a secured mezzanine loan with CRE Private Company B that was syndicated by the affiliate, consisting of an aggregate of \$ 56.4 million in loan commitments, of which \$ 20.7 million was funded by the Company and another \$ 20.7 million was provided by an affiliate. The secured mezzanine loan was purchased by the Company and an affiliate at a discount of 1.0 % for a purchase price of approximately \$ 20.4 million each, respectively. Approximately \$ 15.0 million was established as an unfunded commitment, available to be drawn to pay interest on the secured mezzanine loan, of which the Company is responsible for \$ 7.5 million. The Company and affiliate are each 50.0 % syndicate lenders in the secured mezzanine loan. The secured mezzanine loan bears interest at an annual fixed rate of 13.00 % and matures in May 2027.

In January 2024, the Company entered into a partial release and amendment with Private Company L to, among other things, (i) permit the sale and release of certain collateral located in Missouri, subject to the terms and conditions contained therein and (ii) amend certain of the draw and prepayment requirements. In January 2024, the Company received approximately \$ 11.4 million prepayment from Private Company L's sale of certain collateral assets and \$ 0.3 million prepayment premium.

In January 2024, the Company delivered a reservation of rights letter to Private Company K with respect to the occurrence of certain events of default, including the failure to make principal and interest payments when due and deliver monthly statements as required under the credit agreement with Private Company K. In March 2024, the Company entered into a forbearance agreement with Private Company K, pursuant to which we agreed to forbear from exercising certain remedies as a result of the certain defaults under the credit agreement. In exchange for such forbearance, Private Company K agreed to, among others, (i) additional reporting requirements and (ii) contribute additional cash equity in an aggregate amount of up to \$ 3.5 million in increments on or before June 30, 2024 or obtain a combination of additional equity and debt financing in an aggregate amount of up to \$ 8.5 million in increments on or before August 31, 2024, certain of the proceeds of which shall be applied to the outstanding obligations under the credit agreement. The existing credit agreement was amended by the forbearance agreement entered into with Private Company K to require (a) 20 % of the interest payable for December 2023 and January 2024 to be payable in cash in arrears and 80 % paid in kind, (b) 35 % of the interest payable for February 2024 to be payable in cash in arrears and 65 % to be paid in kind, (c) 50 % of the interest payable for March 2024, April 2024 and May 2024 to be payable in cash in arrears and 50 % to be paid in kind, (d) interest for the remainder of the months during the term of the forbearance agreement to be payable in cash in arrears and (e) payments of principal during the term of the forbearance to be deferred during the term of the forbearance agreement. The Company placed Private Company K on non-accrual status effective December 1, 2023 and will recognize income related to loan activity only upon receipt of cash.

In February 2024, AFC Agent received approximately \$ 4.7 million in total loan principal prepayments and \$ 0.1 million in related exit fees from Private Company A's sale of its collateral assets, of which approximately \$ 3.9 million in principal prepayments and \$ 0.1 million in related exit fees were allocated to the Company relating to the Company's pro rata portion of the Private Company A Credit Facility and was applied to the outstanding principal balance. Following the prepayment, the Company's outstanding principal balance under the Private Company A Credit Facility was approximately \$ 49.8 million. AFC Agent continues to monitor the court-appointed receivership installed to maintain the borrower's operations and maximize value for the benefit of its creditors.

On February 22, 2024, the Company announced that its Board of Directors had unanimously approved a plan to spin-off (the "Spin-Off") its commercial real estate ("CRE") portfolio into an independent, publicly traded REIT, named Sunrise Realty Trust, Inc. ("SUNS"). The Company and SUNS expect that \$ 115.0 million of assets in the aggregate, in a combination of loans and cash, will either be contributed to SUNS in the Contribution or be held by SUNS immediately following the Contribution. Following the distribution, the Company and SUNS expects the SUNS Common Stock to be listed on the Nasdaq Capital Market. The Spin-Off is expected to be completed in mid-2024. SUNS filed a registration statement on Form 10 with the Securities and Exchange Commission which provides additional details about the Spin-Off.

In March 2024, the Company entered into a forbearance agreement with Subsidiary of Private Company G, pursuant to which we agreed to forbear from exercising certain remedies as a result of certain events of default under the credit agreement and under the forbearance agreement entered into with Subsidiary of Private Company G in September 2023. In exchange for such forbearance, Subsidiary of Private Company G agreed to, among other things, (i) contribute additional cash equity in an aggregate amount of not less than \$ 3.0 million before April 30, 2024, (ii) sell certain assets, the proceeds of which will be applied to pay down outstanding obligations under the credit agreement, (iii) enter into a management services agreement with a third party with respect to Subsidiary of Private Company G's operations in Pennsylvania, (iv) enter into a consulting or similar agreement with a third party with respect to Subsidiary of Private Company G's operations in New Jersey, and (v) deliver additional reporting requirements. In addition, the existing credit agreement was amended by the forbearance agreement entered into with Subsidiary of Private Company G to, for the remaining life of the loan (so long as Subsidiary of Private Company G complies with its obligations under the forbearance agreement), (a) remove the financial covenants, (b) revise the existing cash flow sweep such that 75 % of excess cash flow is paid toward current interest, accrued interest, lender expenses and principal, (c) change the interest rate on the loans to 12.5 % per annum, a minimum portion of which is payable in cash pursuant to the excess cash flow sweep, and the remainder of which, if any, is paid in kind, and (d) remove required amortization payments. The Company placed Subsidiary of Private Company G on non-accrual effective December 1, 2023 and will recognize income related to loan activity only upon receipt of cash.

In March 2024, the Company declared a regular cash dividend of \$ 0.48 per share of our common stock, relating to the first quarter of 2024, which will be paid on April 15, 2024 to shareholders of record as of March 31, 2024. The estimated aggregate amount of the regular cash dividend payment is approximately \$ 9.9 million.

SIGNATURES

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, each registrant has duly caused this report to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned thereunto duly authorized.

Date: March 7, 2024

AFC GAMMA, INC.

By: /s/ Daniel Neville
Daniel Neville
Chief Executive Officer
(Principal Executive Officer)

By: /s/ Brandon Hetzel
Brandon Hetzel
Chief Financial Officer and Treasurer
(Principal Financial Officer and Principal Accounting Officer)

By: /s/ Jodi Hanson Bond
Jodi Hanson Bond
Director

By: /s/ James C. Fagan
James C. Fagan
Director

By: /s/ Alexander Frank
Alexander Frank
Director

By: /s/ Thomas Harrison
Thomas Harrison
Director

By: /s/ Robert Levy
Robert Levy
Director

By: /s/ Marnie Sudnow
Marnie Sudnow
Director

By: /s/ Leonard M. Tannenbaum
Leonard M. Tannenbaum
Executive Chairman

EMPLOYMENT AGREEMENT

THIS EMPLOYMENT AGREEMENT (this “**Agreement**”) is made and entered into as of January 3, 2023, by and between AFC Management, LLC, a Delaware limited liability company (“**AFC Management**” or the “**Company**”), and Brandon Hetzel (the “**Executive**”). In consideration of the mutual covenants and promises contained herein and other good and valuable consideration, the receipt and sufficiency of which are hereby expressly acknowledged, the parties agree as follows:

1. Retention and Duties.

1.1 Retention. AFC Management does hereby engage and employ the Executive for the Period of Employment (as such term is defined in Section 2) on the terms and conditions expressly set forth in this Agreement. The Executive does hereby accept and agree to such engagement and employment, on the terms and conditions expressly set forth in this Agreement. Certain capitalized terms used herein are defined in Section 5.5 of this Agreement.

1.2 Duties. During the Period of Employment, the Executive shall be employed by AFC Management and shall serve initially as the Executive Vice President, Controller of the Company and AFC Gamma, Inc., a Maryland corporation (“**AFCG**”), and shall have the powers, authorities, duties and obligations of management usually vested in the office of the executive vice president of a company of a similar size and similar nature as AFCG, and such other powers, authorities, duties and obligations commensurate with such positions as the applicable Board of Directors (the “**Board**”) and Chief Executive Officer may assign from time to time, all subject to the directives of each applicable Board and the corporate policies of the Company as they are in effect from time to time throughout the Period of Employment (including, without limitation, the Company’s business conduct and ethics policies, as they may change from time to time). During the Period of Employment, the Executive shall report to the Chief Financial Officer of each of the Company and AFCG.

1.3 No Other Employment; Minimum Time Commitment. During the Period of Employment, the Executive shall (i) devote substantially all of the Executive’s business time, energy and skill to the performance of the Executive’s duties for the Company, (ii) perform such duties in a faithful, effective and efficient manner to the best of the Executive’s abilities, and (iii) hold no other employment. The Executive’s service on the boards of directors (or similar body) of other business entities is subject to the prior written approval of the Board of the Company. The Company shall have the right to require the Executive to resign from any board or similar body (including, without limitation, any association, corporate, civic or charitable board or similar body) which the Executive may then serve if the Executive’s service on such board or body interferes in any material respect with the effective discharge of the Executive’s duties and responsibilities to the Company or that any business related to such service is then in direct or indirect competition with any business of the Company or any of its Affiliates, successors or assigns.

1.4 No Breach of Contract. The Executive hereby represents to the Company and agrees that: (i) the execution and delivery of this Agreement by the Executive and the Company and the performance by the Executive of the Executive’s duties hereunder do not and shall not constitute a breach of, conflict with, or otherwise contravene or cause a default under, the terms of any other agreement or policy to which the Executive is a party or otherwise bound or any judgment, order or decree to which the Executive is subject; (ii) the Executive will not enter into any new agreement that would or reasonably could contravene or cause a default by the Executive under this Agreement; (iii) the Executive has no information (including, without limitation, confidential information and trade secrets) relating to any other Person which would

prevent, or be violated by, the Executive entering into this Agreement or carrying out his or her duties hereunder; (iv) the Executive is not bound by any employment, consulting, non-compete, non-solicitation, confidentiality, trade secret or similar agreement (other than this Agreement) with any other Person (other than ongoing, customary confidentiality obligations as to confidential information obtained from prior employers in the course of the Executive's prior employment with them); (v) to the extent the Executive has any confidential or similar information that the Executive is not free to disclose to the Company, the Executive will not disclose or bring on to the Company's premises, computer networks, communications or systems, computers or any other devices or accounts, any such information to the extent such disclosure or transmission would violate applicable law or any other agreement or policy to which the Executive is a party or by which the Executive is otherwise bound; and (vi) the Executive understands the Company will rely upon the accuracy and truth of the representations and warranties of the Executive set forth herein and the Executive consents to such reliance.

1.5 Location. The Executive's principal place of employment shall be the Company's principal executive office as it may be located from time to time in Palm Beach County, Florida or Broward County, Florida. The Executive agrees that the Executive will be regularly present at the office during regular business hours (except for required business travel, holidays, vacation and other leaves consistent with this Agreement). The Executive acknowledges that the Executive will be required to travel from time to time in the course of performing his or her duties for the Company.

1.6 Company Policies. As a condition to Executive's employment, Executive will be required to comply with the Company's Code of Ethics and Compliance Manual, as well as AFCG's publicly-filed policies, and all other policies of the Company and AFCG applicable to their respective executives and employees.

2. Period of Employment. The "Period of Employment" shall be a period of two (2) years commencing on the Effective Date and ending at the close of business on the second (2nd) anniversary of the Effective Date (the "Termination Date"); provided, however, that this Agreement shall be automatically renewed, and the Period of Employment shall be automatically extended for one (1) additional year on the Termination Date and each anniversary of the Termination Date thereafter. The term "Period of Employment" shall include any extension thereof pursuant to the preceding sentence. Provision of notice that the Period of Employment shall not be extended or further extended, as the case may be, (x) by the Company, shall constitute a termination of the Executive's employment by the Company without "Cause" or (y) by the Executive, shall constitute a termination by the Executive without "Good Reason" for purposes of this Agreement. Notwithstanding the foregoing, the Period of Employment is subject to earlier termination as provided below in this Agreement.

3. Compensation.

3.1 Base Salary. During the Period of Employment, AFC Management shall pay the Executive a base salary (the "Base Salary"), which shall be paid in accordance with AFC Management's regular payroll practices in effect from time to time but not less frequently than in monthly installments. The Executive's Base Salary shall be \$250,000 for 2023 and 2024. The Company's Board (or a committee thereof) may, in its sole discretion, increase (but not decrease) the Executive's rate of Base Salary.

3.2 Incentive Bonus. The Executive shall be eligible to receive an incentive bonus for each fiscal year of the Company that occurs during the Period of Employment ("Incentive Bonus"). Notwithstanding the foregoing and except as otherwise expressly provided in this Agreement, the Executive must be employed by the Company at the time AFC Management pays incentive bonuses to employees generally with respect to a particular fiscal year in order to

earn and be eligible for an Incentive Bonus for that year (and, if the Executive is not so employed at such time, in no event shall the Executive have been considered to have “earned” any Incentive Bonus with respect to the fiscal year). The Executive’s maximum Incentive Bonus amount for the 2023 fiscal year of the Company shall be equal to \$100,000, with a target of 75% of such amount. The Executive’s maximum Incentive Bonus for the 2024 fiscal year shall be equal to \$150,000, with a target of 75% of such amount, and any subsequent fiscal year in the Period of Employment shall be determined by AFCG’s Board and management in good faith (the “Target Bonus”); provided that the Executive’s actual Incentive Bonus amount for a particular fiscal year shall be determined by the Company’s management or the applicable Board (or a committee thereof) in its sole discretion, based on performance objectives (which may include corporate, business unit or division, financial, strategic, individual or other objectives) established with respect to that particular fiscal year by the Company’s management or the applicable Board (or a committee thereof).

3.3 Equity. AFCG’s management will recommend to its Board that Executive be awarded in connection with his 2023 compensation two equity grants of restricted common stock having an aggregate fair value of \$125,000 under the terms of AFCG’s Stock Incentive Plan (the “Plan”), The first equity grant, anticipated in January 2023, will have a fair value of \$100,000 on the grant date and will vest on the following schedule: one-third (1/3rd) of such grant shall vest on each of the first (1st), second (2nd) and third (3rd) anniversary of the grant date. The second equity grant will have a fair value of \$25,000 on the grant date, and will be fully vested upon grant, anticipated in January 2024. The following year, AFCG’s management will further recommend to its Board that Executive be awarded an equity grant of restricted stock under the Plan having an aggregate fair value on grant date of \$150,000 in in connection with Executive’s 2024 compensation, anticipated in January 2024. The grant will vest on the following schedule: one-third (1/3rd) of such grant shall vest on each of the first (1st), second (2nd) and third (3rd) anniversary of the grant date. For the avoidance of doubt, the Executive shall be entitled to cash dividends for all restricted common stock issued to him even when such restricted common stock is not yet vested, in accordance with the Plan. Notwithstanding anything herein or elsewhere to the contrary, all of the Executive’s outstanding equity shall fully vest upon the occurrence of both (i) a Change in Control Event (as defined in the Plan) and (ii) Executive’s termination of employment within three (3) months prior to or one (1) year following such Change in Control Event, in each case as a result of a termination by the Company without Cause (other than due to Executive’s death or Disability) or a termination by Executive for Good Reason. For the avoidance of doubt, an Internalization Transaction, as defined under the terms of the Company’s management agreement with AFCG, as the same may be amended from time-to-time, shall not constitute a Change in Control Event for the purposes herein.

4. Benefits.

4.1 Retirement, Welfare and Fringe Benefits. During the Period of Employment, the Executive shall be entitled to participate in all employee pension and welfare benefit plans and programs, and fringe benefit plans and programs, made available by the Company to the Company’s executives generally, in accordance with the eligibility and participation provisions of such plans and as such plans or programs may be in effect from time to time.

4.2 Reimbursement of Business Expenses. The Executive is authorized to incur reasonable expenses in carrying out the Executive’s duties for the Company under this Agreement and shall be entitled to reimbursement for all reasonable business expenses the Executive incurs during the Period of Employment in connection with carrying out the Executive’s duties for the Company, subject to the Company’s expense reimbursement policies and any pre-approval policies in effect from time to time. During the Period of Employment, the Company will also pay for the Executive’s professional association dues (e.g., AICPA, FICPA, FEI), subscriptions, and expenses related to maintaining the Executive’s CPA license or any of

the Executive's other securities licenses. These expenses include the cost of continuing education courses/seminars along with related travel costs. The Executive agrees to promptly submit and document any reimbursable expenses in accordance with the Company's expense reimbursement policies to facilitate the timely reimbursement of such expenses.

4.3 Vacation and Other Leave. During the Period of Employment, the Executive shall accrue eighteen (18) days' worth of annual vacation on the same basis as similarly situated employees, with such vacation to accrue over the calendar year and be subject to the Company's vacation policies in effect from time to time; accrued but unused vacation shall not carry over from year to year. The Executive shall also be entitled to five (5) personal days and all other holiday and leave pay generally available to other executives of the Company.

5. Termination.

5 . 1 Termination by the Company. During the Period of Employment, the Executive's employment by the Company, and the Period of Employment, may be terminated at any time by the Company: (i) with Cause, or (ii) with no less than thirty (30) days advance written notice to the Executive (such notice to be delivered in accordance with Section 18), without Cause, or (iii) in the event of the Executive's death, or (iv) in the event of Disability.

5 . 2 Termination by the Executive. During the Period of Employment, the Executive's employment by the Company, and the Period of Employment, may be terminated by the Executive with no less than thirty (30) days advance written notice to the Company (such notice to be delivered in accordance with Section 18); provided, however, that in the case of a termination for Good Reason, the Executive may provide immediate written notice of termination once the applicable cure period (as contemplated by the definition of Good Reason) has lapsed if the Company has not reasonably cured the circumstances that gave rise to the basis for the Good Reason termination.

5.3 Benefits upon Termination. If the Executive's employment with the Company is terminated for any reason by the Company or by the Executive (whether or not during or following the expiration of the Period of Employment) (the date that the Executive's employment with the Company terminates is referred to as the "Severance Date"), the Company shall have no further obligation to make or provide to the Executive, and the Executive shall have no further right to receive or obtain from the Company, any payments or benefits except as follows:

(a) The Company shall pay the Executive (or, in the event of his or her death, the Executive's estate) any Accrued Obligations;

(b) If the Executive's employment with the Company terminates during the Period of Employment as a result of a termination by the Company without Cause (other than due to the Executive's death or Disability) or a resignation by the Executive for Good Reason (and, for purposes of clarity, including any termination upon the expiration of the Period of Employment as a result of a non-renewal by the Company), the Executive shall (in addition to the Accrued Obligations), subject to tax withholding and other authorized deductions, be entitled to payment of an amount equal to one (1) times the Executive's Base Salary paid over the trailing twelve months as of the Severance Date (such amount is referred to hereinafter as the "Severance Benefit"). Subject to Section 21(b), the Company shall pay the Severance Benefit to the Executive in equal monthly installments over a period of twelve consecutive months, with the first installment payable on (or within ten (10) days following) the sixtieth (60th) day following the Executive's Separation from Service and to include each such installment that was otherwise (but for such 60-day delay) scheduled to be paid following the Executive's Separation from Service and prior to the date of such payment.

(c) Notwithstanding the foregoing provisions of this Section 5.3, if the Executive (x) breaches his obligations under Section 6.2, Section 6.3 or Section 6.4 of this Agreement at any time or (y) materially breaches any other obligations under Section 6, from and after the date of such breach and not in any way in limitation of any right or remedy otherwise available to the Company, the Executive will no longer be entitled to, and the Company will no longer be obligated to pay, any remaining unpaid portion of the payments or benefits in Section 5.3(b) (other than the Accrued Obligations); provided that, if the Executive provides the Release contemplated by Section 5.4, in no event shall the Executive be entitled to benefits pursuant to Section 5.3(b) of less than \$5,000, which amount the parties agree is good and adequate consideration, in and of itself, for the Executive's Release contemplated by Section 5.4.

(d) The foregoing provisions of this Section 5.3 shall not affect: (i) the Executive's receipt of benefits otherwise due to terminated employees under group insurance coverage consistent with the terms of the applicable Company welfare benefit plan; or (ii) the Executive's receipt of benefits otherwise due in accordance with the terms of the Company's 401(k) plan (if any).

5.4 Release; Exclusive Remedy; Leave.

(a) This Section 5.4 shall apply notwithstanding anything else contained in this Agreement or any stock option or other equity-based award agreement to the contrary. As a condition precedent to any Company obligation to the Executive pursuant to Section 5.3(b), Section 5.3(c) or any other obligation related to the vesting of any equity-based award in connection with the termination of the Executive's employment, the Executive shall provide the Company with a Release and such Release shall have not been revoked by the Executive pursuant to any revocation rights afforded by applicable law. For purposes of this Agreement, "Release" shall mean a valid, executed general release agreement in a form reasonably acceptable to the Company; provided, that the Release (i) shall not include any restrictive covenants other than those to which the Executive is already subject and (ii) shall specifically exclude from its scope any release of (A) indemnification rights, (B) vested rights under the long term incentive plans or any other vested rights, (C) claims arising under, or preserved by, this Agreement, and (D) claims that arise from events that occur after the date the Executive executes such Release. The Company shall provide the final form of Release to the Executive not later than seven (7) days following the Severance Date, and the Executive shall be required to execute and return the Release to the Company within twenty-one (21) days (or forty-five (45) days if such longer period of time is required to make the Release maximally enforceable under applicable law) after the Company provides the form of Release to the Executive.

(b) The Executive agrees that the payments and benefits contemplated by Section 5.3 (and any applicable acceleration of vesting of an equity-based award in accordance with the terms of such award in connection with the termination of the Executive's employment) shall constitute the exclusive and sole remedy for any termination of the Executive's employment and the Executive covenants not to assert or pursue any other remedies, at law or in equity, with respect to any termination of employment. The Company and the Executive acknowledge and agree that there is no duty of the Executive to mitigate damages under this Agreement. All amounts paid to the Executive pursuant to Section 5.3 shall be paid without regard to whether the Executive has taken or takes actions to mitigate damages. The Executive agrees to resign, on the Severance Date, as an officer and director of the Company and any Affiliate of the Company, and as a fiduciary of any benefit plan of the Company or any Affiliate of the Company, and to promptly execute and provide to the Company any further documentation, as requested by the Company, to confirm such resignation, and to remove himself as a signatory on any accounts maintained by the Company or any of its Affiliates (or any of their respective benefit plans).

(c) In the event that the Company provides the Executive notice of termination without Cause pursuant to Section 5.1 or the Executive provides the Company notice of termination pursuant to Section 5.2, the Company will have the option to place the Executive on paid administrative leave during the notice period.

5.5 Certain Defined Terms.

(a) As used herein, "Accrued Obligations" means:

- (i) any Base Salary that had accrued but had not been paid on or before the Severance Date;
- (ii) any reimbursement due to the Executive pursuant to Section 4.2 for expenses reasonably incurred by the Executive on or before the Severance Date and documented and pre-approved, to the extent applicable, in accordance with the Company's expense reimbursement policies in effect at the applicable time;
- (iii) all other payments and benefits to which Executive may then or thereafter be entitled under the terms of any written plan, program, agreement, or other arrangement of the Company or its Affiliates; and
- (iv) other than in connection with a termination by the Company for Cause or by Executive without Good Reason, payment of any prior year's Incentive Bonus to the extent not previously paid (i.e., if the termination occurs following completion of the applicable calendar year but prior to the payment date).

(b) As used herein, "Affiliate" of the Company means AFCG and any Person that directly or indirectly through one or more intermediaries, controls, or is controlled by, or is under common control with, the Company. As used in this definition, the term "control," including the correlative terms "controlling," "controlled by" and "under common control with," means the possession, directly or indirectly, of the power to direct or cause the direction of management or policies (whether through ownership of securities or any partnership or other ownership interest, by contract or otherwise) of a Person.

(c) As used herein, "Cause" shall mean the Executive:

- (i) has been materially negligent in the discharge of his duties to the Company or any Affiliate, has repeatedly failed to perform stated or assigned duties consistent with this Agreement or is incompetent in or (other than by reason of a Disability) incapable of performing those duties;
- (ii) has been dishonest in any material respect or committed or engaged in an act of theft, embezzlement or fraud in the performance of his duties hereunder, or has materially breached Section 6.1 hereof;
- (iii) has breached a fiduciary duty, or willfully and materially violated any other material duty, law, rule, regulation or policy of the Company or any of its Affiliates; or has been convicted of, or pled guilty or nolo contendere to, a felony or misdemeanor (other than minor traffic violations or similar offenses);

(iv) has materially breached any of the provisions of any material agreement with the Company or any of its Affiliates;

(v) has engaged in unfair competition with (in violation of Section 6.2 hereof), or otherwise acted intentionally in a manner injurious to the reputation, business or assets of, the Company or any of its Affiliates;

(vi) has improperly induced a vendor or customer to breach or terminate any contract with the Company or its Affiliates or induced a principal for whom the Company or any Affiliate acts as agent to terminate such agency relationship (in each case, in violation of Section 6.3 or Section 6.4 hereof);

(vii) has made disparaging comments about the Company, its Affiliates or its management; or

(viii) failure to materially comply with the Company's and its Affiliates' policies listed in Section 1.6;

provided, however, that any such condition or conditions, as applicable, shall not constitute Cause unless both (x) the Company provides written notice to the Executive of the condition claimed to constitute Cause within sixty (60) days of the Company first learning of the initial existence of such condition(s) (such notice to be delivered in accordance with Section 18), and (y) if curable, the Executive fails to remedy such condition(s) within thirty (30) days of receiving such written notice thereof; and provided, further, that in all events the termination of the Executive's employment with the Company shall not constitute a termination for Cause unless such termination occurs not more than 150 days following such written notice.

(d) As used herein, "Disability" shall mean a physical or mental impairment which, as reasonably determined by the Board, renders the Executive unable to perform the essential functions of his or her employment with the Company, even with reasonable accommodation that does not impose an undue hardship on the Company, for more than ninety (90) days in any 180-day period, unless a longer period is required by federal or state law, in which case that longer period would apply. The Executive agrees to reasonably cooperate with the Board in making any such determination as to the existence of Disability.

(e) As used herein, "Good Reason" shall mean the occurrence (without the Executive's consent) of any one or more of the following conditions:

(i) a diminution in the Executive's rate of Base Salary or Target Bonus;

(ii) an adverse change in the Executive's title;

(iii) a material change in the geographic location of the Executive's principal office with the Company (for this purpose, in no event shall a relocation of such office to a new location that is in Palm Beach County or Broward County, Florida constitute a "material change");

(v) a material breach by the Company or any of its Affiliates of this Agreement; or

(vi) if the Executive is not promoted to an "C-level" executive position at AFCG by the end of the 2023 calendar year.

provided, however, that any such condition or conditions, as applicable, shall not constitute Good Reason unless both (x) the Executive provides written notice to the Company of the condition claimed to constitute Good Reason within sixty (60) days of the Executive first learning of the initial existence of such condition(s) (such notice to be delivered in accordance with Section 18), and (y) the Company fails to remedy such condition(s) within thirty (30) days of receiving such written notice thereof; and provided, further, that in all events the termination of the Executive's employment with the Company shall not constitute a termination for Good Reason unless such termination occurs not more than 150 days following such notice.

(f) As used herein, the term "Person" shall be construed broadly and shall include, without limitation, an individual, a partnership, a limited liability company, a corporation, an association, a joint stock company, a trust, a joint venture, an unincorporated organization and a governmental entity or any department, agency or political subdivision thereof.

(g) As used herein, a "Separation from Service" occurs when the Executive dies, retires, or otherwise has a termination of employment with the Company that constitutes a "separation from service" within the meaning of Treasury Regulation Section 1.409A-1(h)(1), without regard to the optional alternative definitions available thereunder.

5.6. Notice of Termination; Employment Following Expiration of Period of Employment Any termination of the Executive's employment under this Agreement shall be communicated by written notice of termination from the terminating party to the other party. This notice of termination must be delivered in accordance with Section 18 and must indicate the specific provision(s) of this Agreement relied upon in effecting the termination.

6. Protective Covenants.

6.1 Confidential Information; Inventions.

(a) The Executive shall not disclose or use at any time, either during the Period of Employment or thereafter, any Confidential Information (as defined below) of which the Executive is or becomes aware, whether or not such information is developed by the Executive, except to the extent that such disclosure or use is directly related to and required by the Executive's performance in good faith of duties for the Company. The Executive will take all appropriate steps to safeguard Confidential Information in his or her possession and to protect it against disclosure, misuse, espionage, loss and theft. The Executive shall deliver to the Company at the termination of the Period of Employment, or at any time the Company may request, all memoranda, communications, notes, plans, records, reports, computer tapes and software and other documents and data (and copies thereof) relating to, reflecting or containing the Confidential Information or the Work Product (as hereinafter defined) of the business of the Company or any of its Affiliates which the Executive may then possess or have under his or her control. Notwithstanding the foregoing, the Executive may truthfully respond to a lawful and valid subpoena or other legal process, but shall give the Company the earliest possible notice thereof, shall, as much in advance of the return date as possible, make available to the Company and its counsel the documents and other information sought, and shall assist the Company and such counsel in resisting or otherwise responding to such process. The Executive understands that nothing in this Agreement is intended to limit the Executive's right (i) to discuss the terms, wages, and working conditions of the Executive's employment to the extent permitted and/or protected by applicable labor laws, (ii) to report Confidential Information in a confidential manner either to a federal, state or local government official or to an attorney where such disclosure is **solely** for the purpose of reporting or investigating a suspected violation of law, or (iii) to disclose Confidential Information in an anti-retaliation lawsuit or other legal proceeding, so long as that disclosure or filing is made under seal and the Executive does not otherwise

disclose such Confidential Information, except pursuant to court order. The Company encourages the Executive, to the extent legally permitted, to give the Company the earliest possible notice of any such report or disclosure. Pursuant to the Defend Trade Secrets Act of 2016, the Executive acknowledges that the Executive may not be held criminally or civilly liable under any federal or state trade secret law for the disclosure of Confidential Information that: (a) is made in confidence to a federal, state, or local government official, either directly or indirectly, or to an attorney solely for the purpose of reporting or investigating a suspected violation of law; or (b) is made in a complaint or other document that is filed in a lawsuit or other proceeding, provided that such filing is made under seal. Further, the Executive understands that the Company will not retaliate against the Executive in any way for any such disclosure made in accordance with the law. In the event a disclosure is made, and the Executive files any type of proceeding against the Company alleging that the Company retaliated against the Executive because of the Executive's disclosure, the Executive may disclose the relevant Confidential Information to his or her attorney and may use the Confidential Information in the proceeding if (x) the Executive files any document containing the Confidential Information under seal, and (y) the Executive does not otherwise disclose the Confidential Information except pursuant to court or arbitral order.

(b) As used in this Agreement, the term "Confidential Information" means information that is not generally known to the public and that is used, developed or obtained by the Company or its Affiliates in connection with their respective businesses, including, but not limited to, information, observations and data obtained by the Executive while employed by the Company or its Affiliates or any predecessors thereof (including those obtained prior to the Effective Date) concerning (i) the business or affairs of the Company or its Affiliates (or such predecessors), (ii) products or services, (iii) fees, costs and pricing structures and strategies, (iv) designs, (v) analyses, (vi) drawings, photographs and reports, (vii) computer software, including operating systems, applications and program listings, (viii) flow charts, manuals and documentation, (ix) data bases, (x) accounting and business methods, (xi) inventions, devices, new developments, product roadmaps, methods and processes, whether patentable or unpatentable and whether or not reduced to practice, (xii) customers and clients, customer or client lists, and the preferences of, and negotiations with, customers and clients, (xiii) personnel information of other employees and independent contractors (including their compensation, unique skills, experience and expertise, and disciplinary matters), (xiv) other copyrightable works, (xv) all production methods, processes, technology and trade secrets, and (xvi) all similar and related information in whatever form. Confidential Information will not include any information that has been published (other than a disclosure by the Executive in breach of this Agreement) in a form generally available to the public prior to the date the Executive proposes to disclose or use such information. Confidential Information will not be deemed to have been published merely because individual portions of the information have been separately published, but only if all material features comprising such information have been published in combination.

(c) As used in this Agreement, the term "Work Product" means all inventions, innovations, improvements, technical information, systems, software developments, source code, methods, designs, analyses, works, drawings, reports, service marks, trademarks, trade names, logos, and all similar or related information (whether patentable or unpatentable, copyrightable, registerable as a trademark, reduced to writing, or otherwise) which relates to the Company's or any of its Affiliates' actual or anticipated business, research and development or existing or future products or services and which are conceived, developed or made by the Executive (whether or not during usual business hours, whether or not by the use of the facilities of the Company or any of its Affiliates, and whether or not alone or in conjunction with any other person) while employed by the Company or its Affiliates (including those conceived, developed or made prior to the Effective Date) together with all patent applications, letters patent, trademark, trade name and service mark applications or registrations, copyrights and reissues

thereof that may be granted for or upon any of the foregoing. All Work Product that the Executive may have discovered, invented or originated during his or her employment by the Company or any of its Affiliates prior to the Effective Date, or that the Executive may discover, invent or originate during the Period of Employment, shall be the exclusive property of the Company and its Affiliates, as applicable, and Executive hereby assigns all of Executive's right, title and interest in and to such Work Product to the Company or its applicable Affiliate, including all intellectual property rights therein. Executive shall promptly disclose all Work Product to the Company, shall execute at the request of the Company any assignments or other documents the Company may deem necessary to protect or perfect its (or any of its Affiliates', as applicable) rights therein, and shall assist the Company, at the Company's expense, in obtaining, defending and enforcing the Company's (or any of its Affiliates', as applicable) rights therein. The Executive hereby appoints the Company as the Executive's attorney-in-fact to execute on his or her behalf any assignments or other documents deemed necessary by the Company to protect or perfect the Company, the Company's (and any of its Affiliates', as applicable) rights to any Work Product.

(d) Nothing in this Agreement or elsewhere shall prevent the Executive from: (i) cooperating with, or participating in, any investigation conducted by any governmental agency; (ii) making truthful statements, or disclosing documents and information, (x) to the extent reasonably necessary, on written advice of counsel, in connection with any litigation, arbitration or mediation involving his rights or obligations under this Agreement or otherwise or (y) when required, on written advice of counsel, by law, legal process or by any court, arbitrator, mediator or legislative body; (iii) retaining, and using appropriately (e.g., not in connection with violating any non-competition or non-solicitation restriction), documents and information relating to his personal rights and obligations and his contact list; (iv) disclosing his post-employment restrictions in confidence in connection with any potential new employment or business venture; (v) disclosing documents and information in confidence to any attorney, financial advisor, tax preparer, or other professional for the purpose of securing professional advice; (vi) using and disclosing documents and information at the request of the Company, its Affiliates or their attorneys and agents; or (vii) using and disclosing documents and information in connection with good faith performance of his duties for the Company or any of its Affiliates.

6.2 Restriction on Competition. The Executive agrees that if the Executive were to become employed by, or substantially involved in, the business of a competitor of the Company or any of its Affiliates, it would be very difficult for the Executive not to rely on or use the Company's and its Affiliates' trade secrets and confidential information. Thus, to avoid the inevitable disclosure of the Company's and its Affiliates' trade secrets and confidential information, and to protect such trade secrets and confidential information and the Company's and its Affiliates' relationships and goodwill with customers:

(a) during the Period of Employment, the Executive will not directly or indirectly through any other Person engage in, enter the employ of, render any services to, have any ownership interest in, nor participate in the financing, operation, management or control of, any Competing Business. For purposes of this Agreement, the phrase "directly or indirectly through any other Person engage in" shall include, without limitation, any direct or indirect ownership or profit participation interest in such enterprise, whether as an owner, stockholder, member, partner, joint venturer or otherwise, and shall include any direct or indirect participation in such enterprise as an employee, consultant, director, officer, licensor of technology or otherwise. For purposes of this Agreement, "Competing Business" means a Person anywhere in the continental United States where the Company and its Affiliates engage in business, or reasonably anticipate engaging in business on the Severance Date (the "Restricted Area"), that at any time during the Period of Employment has competed with the Company or any of its Affiliates in (i) the business of providing financing to cannabis industry operators (a "Competing Cannabis Business") and (ii) any business then engaged in by the Company or its Affiliates,

including without limitation related to real estate lending or acquisition (a 'Competing Real Estate Business');

(b) for a period of twelve (12) months after the Severance Date, the Executive will not directly or indirectly through any other Person engage in, enter the employ of, render any services to, have any ownership interest in, nor participate in the financing, operation, management or control of, any Competing Cannabis Business, including any Competing Cannabis Business that competes with the Company at any time during the twelve (12) month period following the Severance Date; and

(c) at the Company's option, for a period of three (3) months after the Severance Date, the Executive will not directly or indirectly through any other Person engage in, enter the employ of, render any services to, have any ownership interest in, nor participate in the financing, operation, management or control of, any Competing Real Estate Business, including any Competing Real Estate Business that competes with the Company at any time during the three (3) month period following the Severance Date; provided, however, that the Company may only exercise such option if (i) Executive is entitled to the Severance Benefit in accordance with Section 5.3 or (ii) the Company pays Executive one-fourth (1/4th) the Executive's Base Salary at the annualized rate in effect on the Severance Date in equal monthly installments over a period of three consecutive months.

Nothing herein shall prohibit the Executive from (x) being a passive owner of not more than 2% of the outstanding stock of any class of a corporation which is publicly traded, so long as the Executive has no active participation in the business of such corporation or (y) being employed by, providing services to or otherwise being associated with a multi-strategy organization that includes a unit, division, subsidiary or affiliate that engages in the Competing Business, so long as the Executive does not, directly or indirectly, provide more than a de minimus or incidental amount of communication or services to the unit, division, subsidiary or affiliate that is engaged in the Competing Business.

6.3 Non-Solicitation of Employees and Consultants During the Period of Employment and for a period of twelve (12) months after the Severance Date, the Executive will not directly or indirectly through any other Person solicit, induce or encourage, or attempt to solicit, induce or encourage, any employee or independent contractor of the Company or any Affiliate of the Company to leave the employ or service, as applicable, of the Company or such Affiliate, or become employed or engaged by any third party, or in any way interfere with the relationship between the Company or any such Affiliate, on the one hand, and any employee or independent contractor thereof, on the other hand; provided that the foregoing shall not be violated by general solicitation not targeted at the prohibited group or by the Executive serving as a reference upon request.

6.4 Non-Interference with Customers During the Period of Employment and for a period of twelve (12) months after the Severance Date, the Executive will not, directly or indirectly through any other Person, use any of the Company's trade secrets to influence or attempt to influence customers, vendors, suppliers, licensors, lessors, joint venturers, associates, consultants, agents, or partners of the Company or any Affiliate of the Company to divert their business away from the Company or such Affiliate, and the Executive will not otherwise use the Company's trade secrets to interfere with, disrupt or attempt to disrupt the business relationships, contractual or otherwise, between the Company or any Affiliate of the Company, on the one hand, and any of its or their customers, suppliers, vendors, lessors, licensors, joint venturers, associates, officers, employees, consultants, managers, partners, members or investors, on the other hand.

6.5 Non-Disparagement. During the Period of Employment and at all times thereafter, the Executive agrees not to make negative comments or otherwise disparage the Company, its Affiliates or their respective officers, directors, employees, shareholders, agents or products other than in the good faith performance of the Executive's duties to the Company during the Period of Employment. The Company shall not issue any formal negative or disparaging statements about the Executive. The foregoing shall not be violated by truthful statements in response to legal process, required governmental testimony or filings, or administrative or arbitral proceedings (including, without limitation, depositions in connection with such proceedings).

6.6 Return of Property. The Executive agrees that, upon the Executive's Separation from Service (regardless of the reason for such separation) the Executive will immediately return to the Company (a) all physical, computerized, electronic or other types of records, documents, proposals, notes, lists, files and any and all other materials, including computerized electronic information, that refer, relate or otherwise pertain to the Company or any of its Affiliates that are in the Executive's possession, subject to the Executive's control or held by the Executive for others (including but not limited to any documents containing Confidential Information that exist on any personal computer, phone, tablet, electronic storage device, cloud storage account, email account, or any other personal device or media ("Personal Devices and Media"); and (b) all property or equipment that the Executive has been issued by the Company or any of its Affiliates during the course of the Executive's employment or property or equipment of the Company or any of its Affiliates that the Executive otherwise possesses, including any keys, credit cards, office or telephone equipment, computers (and any software, power cords, manuals, computer bag and other equipment that was provided to the Executive with any such computers), tablets, smartphones, and other devices. The Executive acknowledges that the Executive is not authorized to retain any physical, computerized, electronic or other types of copies of any such physical, computerized, electronic or other types of records, documents, proposals, notes, lists, files or materials, and is not authorized to retain any property or equipment of the Company or any of its Affiliates (including any documents that exist on any Personal Devices and Media), after the Executive's Separation from Service. The Executive further agrees that, upon and following the Executive's Separation from Service, the Executive will immediately forward to the Company (and thereafter destroy any electronic copies thereof) any business information relating to the Company or any of its Affiliates that has been or is inadvertently directed to the Executive after such Separation from Service.

6.7 Understanding of Covenants. The Executive acknowledges that, in the course of his or her employment with the Company and/or its Affiliates and their predecessors, the Executive has become familiar, or will become familiar, with the Company's and its Affiliates' and their predecessors' trade secrets and with other confidential and proprietary information concerning the Company, its Affiliates and their respective predecessors and that his or her services have been and will be of special, unique and extraordinary value to the Company and its Affiliates. The Executive agrees that the foregoing covenants set forth in this Section 6 (together, the "Restrictive Covenants") are reasonable and necessary to protect the Company's and its Affiliates' trade secrets and other confidential and proprietary information, good will, stable workforce, and customer relations.

Without limiting the generality of the Executive's agreement in the preceding paragraph, the Executive (i) represents that the Executive is familiar with and has carefully considered the Restrictive Covenants, (ii) represents that the Executive is fully aware of his or her obligations hereunder, (iii) agrees to the reasonableness of the length of time, scope and geographic coverage, as applicable, of the Restrictive Covenants, (iv) agrees that the Company and its Affiliates currently conducts business throughout the Restricted Area, and (v) agrees that the Restrictive Covenants will continue in effect for the applicable periods set forth above in this Section 6 regardless of whether the Executive is then entitled to receive severance pay or benefits

from the Company. The Executive understands that the Restrictive Covenants may limit his or her ability to earn a livelihood in a business similar to the business of the Company and any of its Affiliates, but the Executive nevertheless believes that he or she has received and will receive sufficient consideration and other benefits as an employee of the Company and as otherwise provided hereunder or as described in the recitals hereto to clearly justify such restrictions which, in any event (given the Executive's education, skills and ability), the Executive does not believe would prevent the Executive from otherwise earning a living. The Executive agrees that the Restrictive Covenants do not confer a benefit upon the Company disproportionate to the detriment of the Executive.

6.8 Enforcement. The Executive agrees that the Executive's services are unique and that he or she has access to Confidential Information and Work Product. Accordingly, without limiting the generality of Section 17, the Executive agrees that a breach by the Executive of any of the covenants in this Section 6 would cause immediate and irreparable harm to the Company that would be difficult or impossible to measure, and that damages to the Company for any such injury would therefore be an inadequate remedy for any such breach. Therefore, the Executive agrees that in the event of any breach or threatened breach of any provision of this Section 6, the Company shall be entitled, in addition to and without limitation upon all other remedies the Company may have under this Agreement, at law or otherwise, to seek specific performance, injunctive relief and/or other appropriate relief (without posting any bond or deposit) in order to enforce or prevent any violations of the provisions of this Section 6, or require the Executive to account for and pay over to the Company all compensation, profits, moneys, accruals, increments or other benefits derived from or received as a result of any transactions constituting a breach of this Section 6 if and when final judgment of a court of competent jurisdiction or arbitrator, as applicable, is so entered against the Executive.

7. Withholding Taxes. Notwithstanding anything else herein to the contrary, the Company may withhold (or cause there to be withheld, as the case may be) from any amounts otherwise due or payable under or pursuant to this Agreement such federal, state and local income, employment, or other taxes as may be required to be withheld pursuant to any applicable law or regulation. Except for such withholding rights, the Executive is solely responsible for any and all tax liability that may arise with respect to the compensation provided under or pursuant to this Agreement.

8. Successors and Assigns.

(a) This Agreement is personal to the Executive and without the prior written consent of the Company shall not be assignable by the Executive otherwise than by will or the laws of descent and distribution. This Agreement shall inure to the benefit of and be enforceable by the Executive's legal representatives.

(b) This Agreement shall inure to the benefit of and be binding upon the Company and its successors and assigns. Without limiting the generality of the preceding sentence, the Company will require any successor (whether direct or indirect, by purchase, merger, consolidation or otherwise) to all or substantially all of the business and/or assets of the Company to assume expressly and agree to perform this Agreement in the same manner and to the same extent that the Company would be required to perform it if no such succession had taken place. As used in this Agreement, "Company" shall mean the Company as hereinbefore defined and any successor or assignee, as applicable, which assumes and agrees to perform this Agreement by operation of law or otherwise.

9. Number and Gender; Examples. Where the context requires, the singular shall include the plural, the plural shall include the singular, and any gender shall include all other genders. Where specific language is used to clarify by example a general statement contained herein, such

specific language shall not be deemed to modify, limit or restrict in any manner the construction of the general statement to which it relates.

10. Section Headings. The section headings of, and titles of paragraphs and subparagraphs contained in, this Agreement are for the purpose of convenience only, and they neither form a part of this Agreement nor are they to be used in the construction or interpretation thereof.

11. Governing Law. This Agreement will be governed by and construed in accordance with the laws of the state of Florida, without giving effect to any choice of law or conflicting provision or rule (whether of the state of Florida or any other jurisdiction) that would cause the laws of any jurisdiction other than the state of Florida to be applied. In furtherance of the foregoing, the internal law of the state of Florida will control the interpretation and construction of this Agreement, even if under such jurisdiction's choice of law or conflict of law analysis, the substantive law of some other jurisdiction would ordinarily apply.

12. Severability. It is the desire and intent of the parties hereto that the provisions of this Agreement be enforced to the fullest extent permissible under the laws and public policies applied in each jurisdiction in which enforcement is sought. Accordingly, if any particular provision of this Agreement shall be adjudicated by a court of competent jurisdiction or determined by an arbitrator pursuant to Section 16 to be invalid, prohibited or unenforceable under any present or future law, and if the rights and obligations of any party under this Agreement will not be materially and adversely affected thereby, such provision, as to such jurisdiction, shall be ineffective, without invalidating the remaining provisions of this Agreement or affecting the validity or enforceability of such provision in any other jurisdiction, and to this end the provisions of this Agreement are declared to be severable; furthermore, in lieu of such invalid or unenforceable provision there will be added automatically as a part of this Agreement, a legal, valid and enforceable provision as similar in terms to such invalid or unenforceable provision as may be possible. Notwithstanding the foregoing, if such provision could be more narrowly drawn (as to geographic scope, period of duration or otherwise) so as not to be invalid, prohibited or unenforceable in such jurisdiction, it shall, as to such jurisdiction, be so narrowly drawn, without invalidating the remaining provisions of this Agreement or affecting the validity or enforceability of such provision in any other jurisdiction.

13. Entire Agreement. This Agreement embodies the entire agreement of the parties hereto respecting the matters within its scope. This Agreement supersedes all prior and contemporaneous agreements of the parties hereto that directly or indirectly bears upon the subject matter hereof. Any prior negotiations, correspondence, agreements, proposals or understandings relating to the subject matter hereof shall be deemed to have been merged into this Agreement, and to the extent inconsistent herewith, such negotiations, correspondence, agreements, proposals, or understandings shall be deemed to be of no force or effect. There are no representations, warranties, or agreements, whether express or implied, or oral or written, with respect to the subject matter hereof, except as expressly set forth herein.

14. Modifications. This Agreement may not be amended, modified or changed (in whole or in part), except by a formal, definitive written agreement expressly referring to this Agreement, which agreement is executed by both of the parties hereto.

15. Waiver. Neither the failure nor any delay on the part of a party to exercise any right, remedy, power or privilege under this Agreement shall operate as a waiver thereof, nor shall any single or partial exercise of any right, remedy, power or privilege preclude any other or further exercise of the same or of any right, remedy, power or privilege, nor shall any waiver of any right, remedy, power or privilege with respect to any occurrence be construed as a waiver of such right, remedy, power or privilege with respect to any other occurrence. No waiver shall be effective unless it is in writing and is signed by the party asserted to have granted such waiver.

16. Arbitration. Except as provided in Sections 6.7 and 17, any non-time barred, legally actionable controversy or claim arising out of or relating to this Agreement, its enforcement, arbitrability or interpretation, or because of an alleged breach, default, or misrepresentation in connection with any of its provisions, or any other non-time barred, legally actionable controversy or claim arising out of or relating to the Executive's employment or association with the Company or termination of the same, including, without limiting the generality of the foregoing, any alleged violation of state or federal statute, common law or constitution, shall be submitted to individual, final and binding arbitration, to be held in Miami, Florida before a single arbitrator selected from Judicial Arbitration and Mediation Services, Inc. ("JAMS"), in accordance with the then-current JAMS Arbitration Rules and Procedures for employment disputes, as modified by the terms and conditions in this Section (which may be found at www.jamsadr.com under the Rules/Clauses tab). The parties will select the arbitrator by mutual agreement or, if the parties cannot agree, then by obtaining a list of nine qualified arbitrators supplied by JAMS from their labor and employment law panel, with each party confidentially submitting a "rank and strike" list that ranks in order of priority six arbitrators and strikes three arbitrators, and the most favored arbitrator based on the cumulative rankings who was not struck by either party shall be appointed arbitrator. Final resolution of any dispute through arbitration may include any remedy or relief that is provided for through any applicable state or federal statutes, or common law. Statutes of limitations shall be the same as would be applicable were the action to be brought in court. The arbitrator selected pursuant to this Agreement may order such discovery as is necessary for a full and fair exploration of the issues and dispute, consistent with the expedited nature of arbitration. At the conclusion of the arbitration, the arbitrator shall issue a written decision that sets forth the essential findings and conclusions upon which the arbitrator's award or decision is based. Any award or relief granted by the arbitrator under this Agreement shall be final and binding on the parties to this Agreement and may be enforced by any court of competent jurisdiction. The Company will pay those arbitration costs that are unique to arbitration, including the arbitrator's fee (recognizing that each side bears its own deposition, witness, expert and attorneys' fees and other expenses to the same extent as if the matter were being heard in court). If, however, any party prevails on a statutory claim, which affords the prevailing party attorneys' fees and costs, then the arbitrator may award reasonable fees and costs to the prevailing party. The arbitrator may not award attorneys' fees to a party that would not otherwise be entitled to such an award under the applicable statute. The arbitrator shall resolve any dispute as to the reasonableness of any fee or cost. **Except as provided in Section 6.8 and 17, the parties acknowledge and agree that they are hereby waiving any rights to trial by jury or a court in any action or proceeding brought by either of the parties against the other in connection with any matter whatsoever arising out of or in any way connected with this Agreement or the Executive's employment.**

17. Remedies. Each of the parties to this Agreement and any Person granted rights hereunder whether or not such person or entity is a signatory hereto shall be entitled to enforce its rights under this Agreement specifically to recover damages and costs for any breach of any provision of this Agreement and to exercise all other rights existing in its favor. The parties hereto agree and acknowledge that money damages may not be an adequate remedy for any breach of the provisions of this Agreement and that each party (as well as each other Person granted rights hereunder) may in its sole discretion obtain permanent injunctive or equitable relief in any arbitration filed pursuant to Section 16 and enforce any such relief awarded by the arbitrator in any court of competent jurisdiction. In addition, each party may also apply to any court of law or equity of competent jurisdiction for provisional injunctive or equitable relief, including a temporary restraining or preliminary injunction (without any requirement to post any bond or deposit), to ensure that the relief sought in arbitration is not rendered ineffectual by interim harm. Each party shall be responsible for paying its own attorneys' fees, costs and other expenses pertaining to any such legal proceeding and enforcement regardless of whether an award or finding or any judgment or verdict thereon is entered against either party.

18 . Notices. Any notice provided for in this Agreement must be in writing and must be either personally delivered, transmitted via email, mailed by first class mail (postage prepaid and return receipt requested) or sent by reputable overnight courier service (charges prepaid) to the recipient at the address below indicated or at such other address or to the attention of such other person as the recipient party has specified by prior written notice to the sending party. Notices will be deemed to have been given hereunder and received when delivered personally, when received if sent via email, five days after deposit in the U.S. mail and one day after deposit with a reputable overnight courier service.

if to the Company:

525 Okeechobee Blvd., Suite 1650
West Palm Beach, FL
Attention: Chief Legal Officer

if to the Executive, to the address most recently on file in the payroll records of the Company.

19. Counterparts. This Agreement may be executed in any number of counterparts, each of which shall be deemed an original as against any party whose signature appears thereon, and all of which together shall constitute one and the same instrument. This Agreement shall become binding when one or more counterparts hereof, individually or taken together, shall bear the signatures of all of the parties reflected hereon as the signatories. Photographic copies of such signed counterparts may be used in lieu of the originals for any purpose.

20. Legal Counsel; Mutual Drafting. Each party recognizes that this is a legally binding contract and acknowledges and agrees that they have had the opportunity to consult with legal counsel of their choice. Each party has cooperated in the drafting, negotiation and preparation of this Agreement. Hence, in any construction to be made of this Agreement, the same shall not be construed against either party on the basis of that party being the drafter of such language. The Executive agrees and acknowledges that he or she has read and understands this Agreement, is entering into it freely and voluntarily, and has been advised to seek counsel prior to entering into this Agreement and has had ample opportunity to do so.

21. Section 409A.

(a) It is intended that any amounts payable under this Agreement shall either be exempt from or comply with Section 409A of the Code (including the Treasury regulations and other published guidance relating thereto) ("Code Section 409A") so as not to subject the Executive to payment of any additional tax, penalty or interest imposed under Code Section 409A. The provisions of this Agreement shall be construed and interpreted to avoid the imputation of any such additional tax, penalty or interest under Code Section 409A yet preserve (to the nearest extent reasonably possible) the intended benefit payable to the Executive. Any installment payments provided for in this Agreement shall be treated as a series of separate payments for purposes of Code Section 409A.

(b) If the Executive is a "specified employee" within the meaning of Treasury Regulation Section 1.409A-1(i) as of the date of the Executive's Separation from Service, the Executive shall not be entitled to any payment or benefit pursuant to Section 5.3(b) until the earlier of (i) the date which is six (6) months after the Executive's Separation from Service for any reason other than death, or (ii) the date of the Executive's death. The provisions of this Section 21(b) shall only apply if, and to the extent, required to avoid the imputation of any tax, penalty or interest pursuant to Code Section 409A. Any amounts otherwise payable to the

Executive upon or in the six (6) month period following the Executive's Separation from Service that are not so paid by reason of this Section 21(b) shall be paid (without interest) as soon as practicable (and in all events within thirty (30) days) after the date that is six (6) months after the Executive's Separation from Service (or, if earlier, as soon as practicable, and in all events within thirty (30) days, after the date of the Executive's death).

(c) To the extent that any benefits or reimbursements pursuant to this Agreement are taxable to the Executive, any reimbursement payment due to the Executive pursuant to any such provision shall be paid to the Executive on or before the last day of the Executive's taxable year following the taxable year in which the related expense was incurred. The benefits and reimbursements pursuant to such provisions are not subject to liquidation or exchange for another benefit and the amount of such benefits and reimbursements that the Executive receives in one taxable year shall not affect the amount of such benefits or reimbursements that the Executive receives in any other taxable year.

22. Indemnification; Liability Insurance.

(a) The Company shall indemnify the Executive to the maximum extent provided for under its operating agreement (or similar organizational documents of the Company as they may be in effect at the relevant time), or if greater, an indemnification agreement with the Executive, with respect to any action, suit or proceeding (each, a "Claim") arising in connection with or related to the Executive's performance of the Executive's duties under this Agreement, and to which the Executive is made, or threatened to be made, a party by reason of the fact that the Executive is an employee of or performing services to the Company or its affiliates pursuant to the terms of this Agreement; provided, however, that no indemnification shall be provided for any action or claim brought against the Executive in good faith by the Company for breach of (or to otherwise enforce) this Agreement, any other agreement in effect between the Executive and the Company or any of its Affiliates, or any of the Executive's other duties and obligations to the Company. The Company will, in addition, advance to Executive, or pay directly, all costs and expenses incurred by Executive in connection with any such Claim, or in connection with Executive's seeking to enforce Executive's rights under this section, within ten (10) days after receiving written notice requesting such an advance and enclosing customary supporting documentation, provided only that such notice includes an unsecured undertaking by Executive to repay the amount advanced if Executive is ultimately determined, by a court of competent jurisdiction, not to be entitled to indemnification against such costs and expenses. The foregoing rights to indemnification and advancement will continue indefinitely, whether or not Executive's services for the Company have terminated. Effective as of the execution by the Executive and the Company of a mutually agreeable indemnification agreement, such indemnification agreement shall supersede this Section 22(a). Nothing herein shall limit any right that the Executive may have in respect of indemnification, advancement or liability insurance coverage under any other policy, plan, contract or arrangement of the Company or its Affiliates or under applicable law.

(b) The Company shall cover the Executive under directors and officers liability insurance both during and after the Period of Employment in the same amount and to the same extent as the Company covers its other active officers and directors (except that, in no event shall the Company be required to maintain such coverage for a period of more than six years after the later of the last day on which the Executive served as an employee of the Company or as a member of the Company's Board).

[The remainder of this page has intentionally been left blank]

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the Company and the Executive have executed this Agreement as of the date set forth above.

COMPANY

AFC MANAGEMENT, LLC
a Delaware limited liability company

By: /s/ Leonard Tannenbaum
Name: Leonard Tannenbaum
Title: Chief Executive Officer

EXECUTIVE

/s/ Brandon Hetzel
Brandon Hetzel

List of Subsidiaries of the Registrant

AFCG TRS1, LLC

SUNRISE REALTY TRUST, INC. (formerly known as CRE SOUTH LLC)

Consent of Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm

We consent to the incorporation by reference in the Registration Statements on Form S-3 (File No. 333-264144) and Form S-8 (File Nos. 333-254480, 333-262091, and 333-270373) of AFC Gamma, Inc. of our report dated March 7, 2024, on our audits of the consolidated financial statements of AFC Gamma, Inc. and subsidiaries as of December 31, 2023 and 2022, and for the years then ended, which report is included in the Annual Report on Form 10-K of AFC Gamma, Inc. for the year ended December 31, 2023, which includes an explanatory paragraph relating to risks and uncertainties due to originating, structuring, underwriting and managing senior secured loans and other types of loans for established cannabis industry operators.

/s/ CohnReznick LLP

Baltimore, Maryland

March 7, 2024

**CERTIFICATION OF PRINCIPAL EXECUTIVE OFFICER PURSUANT TO
SECTION 302 OF THE SARBANES-OXLEY ACT OF 2002**

I, Daniel Neville, certify that:

1. I have reviewed this Annual report on Form 10-K of AFC Gamma, Inc.;
2. Based on my knowledge, this report does not contain any untrue statement of a material fact or omit to state a material fact necessary to make the statements made, in light of the circumstances under which such statements were made, not misleading with respect to the period covered by this report;
3. Based on my knowledge, the financial statements, and other financial information included in this report, fairly present in all material respects the financial condition, results of operations and cash flows of the registrant as of, and for, the periods presented in this report;
4. The registrant's other certifying officer(s) and I are responsible for establishing and maintaining disclosure controls and procedures (as defined in Exchange Act Rules 13a-15(e) and 15d-15(e)) and internal control over financial reporting (as defined in Exchange Act Rules 13a-15(f) and 15d-15(f)) for the registrant and have:
 - (a) Designed such disclosure controls and procedures, or caused such disclosure controls and procedures to be designed under our supervision, to ensure that material information relating to the registrant, including its consolidated subsidiaries, is made known to us by others within those entities, particularly during the period in which this report is being prepared;
 - (b) Designed such internal control over financial reporting, or caused such internal control over financial reporting to be designed under our supervision, to provide reasonable assurance regarding the reliability of financial reporting and the preparation of financial statements for external purposes in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles;
 - (c) Evaluated the effectiveness of the registrant's disclosure controls and procedures and presented in this report our conclusions about the effectiveness of the disclosure controls and procedures, as of the end of the period covered by this report based on such evaluation; and
 - (d) Disclosed in this report any change in the registrant's internal control over financial reporting that occurred during the registrant's most recent fiscal quarter (the registrant's fourth fiscal quarter in the case of an annual report) that has materially affected, or is reasonably likely to materially affect, the registrant's internal control over financial reporting; and
5. The registrant's other certifying officer(s) and I have disclosed, based on our most recent evaluation of internal control over financial reporting, to the registrant's auditors and the audit committee of the registrant's board of directors (or persons performing the equivalent functions):
 - (a) All significant deficiencies and material weaknesses in the design or operation of internal control over financial reporting which are reasonably likely to adversely affect the registrant's ability to record, process, summarize and report financial information; and
 - (b) Any fraud, whether or not material, that involves management or other employees who have a significant role in the registrant's internal control over financial reporting.

Date: March 7, 2024

By: /s/ Daniel Neville

Daniel Neville

Chief Executive Officer

(Principal Executive Officer)

**CERTIFICATION OF PRINCIPAL EXECUTIVE OFFICER PURSUANT TO
SECTION 302 OF THE SARBANES-OXLEY ACT OF 2002**

I, Brandon Hetzel, certify that:

1. I have reviewed this Annual report on Form 10-K of AFC Gamma, Inc.;
2. Based on my knowledge, this report does not contain any untrue statement of a material fact or omit to state a material fact necessary to make the statements made, in light of the circumstances under which such statements were made, not misleading with respect to the period covered by this report;
3. Based on my knowledge, the financial statements, and other financial information included in this report, fairly present in all material respects the financial condition, results of operations and cash flows of the registrant as of, and for, the periods presented in this report;
4. The registrant's other certifying officer(s) and I are responsible for establishing and maintaining disclosure controls and procedures (as defined in Exchange Act Rules 13a-15(e) and 15d-15(e)) and internal control over financial reporting (as defined in Exchange Act Rules 13a-15(f) and 15d-15(f)) for the registrant and have:
 - (a) Designed such disclosure controls and procedures, or caused such disclosure controls and procedures to be designed under our supervision, to ensure that material information relating to the registrant, including its consolidated subsidiaries, is made known to us by others within those entities, particularly during the period in which this report is being prepared;
 - (b) Designed such internal control over financial reporting, or caused such internal control over financial reporting to be designed under our supervision, to provide reasonable assurance regarding the reliability of financial reporting and the preparation of financial statements for external purposes in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles;
 - (c) Evaluated the effectiveness of the registrant's disclosure controls and procedures and presented in this report our conclusions about the effectiveness of the disclosure controls and procedures, as of the end of the period covered by this report based on such evaluation; and
 - (d) Disclosed in this report any change in the registrant's internal control over financial reporting that occurred during the registrant's most recent fiscal quarter (the registrant's fourth fiscal quarter in the case of an annual report) that has materially affected, or is reasonably likely to materially affect, the registrant's internal control over financial reporting; and
5. The registrant's other certifying officer(s) and I have disclosed, based on our most recent evaluation of internal control over financial reporting, to the registrant's auditors and the audit committee of the registrant's board of directors (or persons performing the equivalent functions):
 - (a) All significant deficiencies and material weaknesses in the design or operation of internal control over financial reporting which are reasonably likely to adversely affect the registrant's ability to record, process, summarize and report financial information; and
 - (b) Any fraud, whether or not material, that involves management or other employees who have a significant role in the registrant's internal control over financial reporting.

Date: March 7, 2024

By: /s/ Brandon Hetzel

Brandon Hetzel

Chief Financial Officer and Treasurer

(Principal Financial Officer and Principal Accounting Officer)

**CERTIFICATIONS PURSUANT TO 18 U.S.C. SECTION 1350,
AS ADOPTED PURSUANT TO SECTION 906 OF
THE SARBANES-OXLEY ACT OF 2002**

In connection with the Annual Report on Form 10-K of AFC Gamma, Inc. (the "Company") for the period ending December 31, 2023, as filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission on the date hereof (the "Report"), the undersigned, Daniel Neville, Chief Executive Officer of the Company, hereby certifies, pursuant to 18 U.S.C. Section 1350, as adopted pursuant to Section 906 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002 that:

1. The Report fully complies with the requirements of Section 13(a) or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934; and
2. The information contained in the Report fairly presents, in all material respects, the financial condition and results of operations of the Company.

Date: March 7, 2024

By: /s/ Daniel Neville

Daniel Neville

Chief Executive Officer

(Principal Executive Officer)

- * A signed original of this written statement required by Section 906 has been provided to AFC Gamma, Inc. and will be retained by AFC Gamma, Inc. and furnished to the Securities and Exchange Commission or its staff upon request.

**CERTIFICATIONS PURSUANT TO 18 U.S.C. SECTION 1350,
AS ADOPTED PURSUANT TO SECTION 906 OF
THE SARBANES-OXLEY ACT OF 2002**

In connection with the Annual Report on Form 10-K of AFC Gamma, Inc. (the "Company") for the period ending December 31, 2023, as filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission on the date hereof (the "Report"), the undersigned, Brandon Hetzel, Chief Financial Officer of the Company, hereby certifies, pursuant to 18 U.S.C. Section 1350, as adopted pursuant to Section 906 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002 that:

1. The Report fully complies with the requirements of Section 13(a) or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934; and
2. The information contained in the Report fairly presents, in all material respects, the financial condition and results of operations of the Company.

Date: March 7, 2024

By: /s/ Brandon Hetzel

Brandon Hetzel

Chief Financial Officer and Treasurer

(Principal Financial Officer and Principal Accounting Officer)

- * A signed original of this written statement required by Section 906 has been provided to AFC Gamma, Inc. and will be retained by AFC Gamma, Inc. and furnished to the Securities and Exchange Commission or its staff upon request.

Policy Regarding the Recoupment of Certain Compensation Payments

Effective as of November 30, 2023

In the event AFC Gamma, Inc. (the "Company") is required to prepare an accounting restatement due to the material noncompliance of the Company with any financial reporting requirement under the securities laws (including any required accounting restatement to correct an error in previously issued financial statements that is material to the previously issued financial statements or that would result in a material misstatement if the error were corrected in the current period or left uncorrected in the current period), the Company shall recover reasonably promptly the amount of any erroneously awarded Incentive-Based Compensation from each Covered Individual unless an exception (set forth below) applies.

Incentive-Based Compensation shall be considered "erroneously awarded" under this policy to the extent such Incentive-Based Compensation (1) is received by the Covered Individual on or after the effective date of Rule 5608 of The Nasdaq Stock Market LLC ("Nasdaq") Rules and while the Company has a class of securities listed on a national securities exchange or a national securities association, (2) is received by the Covered Individual during the three completed fiscal years immediately preceding the date that the Company is required to prepare the accounting restatement (and any transition period applicable to a change in the Company's fiscal year as required by Nasdaq listing rules), and (3) the amount of such received Incentive-Based Compensation exceeds the amount of the Incentive-Based Compensation that would have been received by the Covered Individual had it been determined based on the restated financial results (with such Incentive-Based Compensation computed in each case without regard to any taxes paid). For purposes of this policy, the date that the Company is required to prepare the accounting restatement is the earlier to occur of (A) the date the Company's Board of Directors (the "Board"), or a committee of the Board, or the officer or officers of the Company authorized to take such action if Board action is not required, concludes, or reasonably should have concluded, that the Company is required to prepare such accounting restatement, or (B) the date a court, regulator, or other legally authorized body directs the Company to prepare such accounting restatement.

For purposes of this policy, Incentive-Based Compensation is considered "received" by a Covered Individual in the Company's fiscal period during which the Financial Reporting Measure applicable to the Incentive-Based Compensation is attained, even if the payment or grant of the Incentive-Based Compensation occurs after the end of that fiscal period. For Incentive-Based Compensation based on stock price or total shareholder return, where the amount of erroneously awarded compensation is not subject to mathematical recalculation directly from the information in an accounting restatement, the amount of erroneously awarded compensation will be determined by the Compensation Committee of the Board (the "Committee") based on a reasonable estimate of the effect of the accounting restatement on the stock price or total shareholder return upon which the Incentive-Based Compensation was received. The Company must maintain documentation of the determination of that reasonable estimate and provide such documentation to Nasdaq as required by Nasdaq listing rules. If the erroneously awarded Incentive-Based Compensation consists of shares (including share-denominated equity awards) or options that are still held by the Covered Individual at the time of recovery, the recoverable amount is the number of shares or options received in excess of the number of shares or options that would have been received based on the accounting restatement (or the value of that excess number). If the options have been exercised but the underlying shares have not been sold, the recoverable amount is the number of shares underlying the excess options based on the restatement (or the value thereof). If the shares have been sold, the recoverable amount is the proceeds that were received in connection with the sale of the excess number of shares. Amounts credited under plans (other than tax-qualified plans for which the exception set forth below applies) based on erroneously awarded Incentive-Based Compensation and any accrued earnings thereon are also recoverable under this policy.

The Company shall not be required under this policy to recover erroneously awarded Incentive-Based Compensation if the Committee has made a determination that recovery would be impracticable and either of the following conditions are met: (1) after making a reasonable attempt to recover such erroneously awarded Incentive-Based Compensation, the Committee determines that the direct expense paid to a third party to assist in enforcing this policy would exceed the amount to be recovered (documentation evidencing the reasonable attempt to recover the erroneously awarded Incentive-Based Compensation must be maintained and provided to Nasdaq as required by Nasdaq listing rules), or (2) the recovery would likely cause an otherwise tax-qualified retirement plan, under which benefits are broadly available to employees of the Company, to fail to meet the requirements of Internal Revenue Code Section 401(a)(13) or Internal Revenue Code Section 411(a) and the regulations thereunder.

For purposes of this policy, the following definitions will apply:

- "Covered Individual" means any current or former officer of the Company who is or was subject to Section 16 of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended, at any time during the applicable performance period for the relevant Incentive-Based Compensation, regardless of whether such

individual continues to hold such position or continues to be employed by the Company or any of its subsidiaries.

- "Incentive-Based Compensation" means any compensation that is granted, earned, or vested based wholly or in part upon the attainment of a Financial Reporting Measure.
- "Financial Reporting Measures" means measures that are determined and presented in accordance with the accounting principles used in preparing the Company's financial statements, and any measures that are derived wholly or in part from such measures (including, for purposes of this policy, stock price and total shareholder return). A Financial Reporting Measure need not be presented within the Company's financial statements or included in a filing with the Securities and Exchange Commission.

This policy is intended to comply with the requirements of Rule 10D-1 promulgated by the Securities and Exchange Commission and the related listing rules of Nasdaq, and the terms hereof shall be construed consistent with that intent. This policy does not limit any other remedies the Company may have available to it in the circumstances, which may include, without limitation, dismissing an employee or initiating other disciplinary procedures. The provisions of this policy are in addition to (and not in lieu of) any rights to repayment the Company may have under Section 304 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002 (applicable to the Chief Executive Officer and Chief Financial Officer only) and other applicable laws. The Company shall not indemnify any Covered Individual against the loss of erroneously-awarded Incentive-Based Compensation that is recovered by the Company pursuant to this policy.

The Committee shall have the sole authority to construe and interpret this policy and to make all determinations required to be made pursuant to this policy. Any such construction, interpretation or determination by the Committee shall be final and binding.

The Committee may revise this policy from time to time.