

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

**SCHEDULE 14A**  
**(Rule 14a-101)**  
**INFORMATION REQUIRED IN PROXY STATEMENT**  
**SCHEDULE 14A INFORMATION**  
Proxy Statement Pursuant to Section 14(a) of  
the Securities Exchange Act of 1934

Filed by the Registrant   
Filed by a Party other than the Registrant

Check the appropriate box:

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

**ORCHID ISLAND CAPITAL, INC.**  
(Name of Registrant as Specified In Its Charter)

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

Payment of Filing Fee (Check the appropriate box):

- No fee required.  
 Fee computed on table below per Exchange Act Rules 14a-6(i)(1) and 0-11.
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- (3) Filing Party: \_\_\_\_\_
- (4) Date Filed: \_\_\_\_\_

**NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING OF STOCKHOLDERS TO BE HELD ON JUNE 16, 2020**

Dear Stockholder:

The 2020 Annual Meeting of Stockholders of Orchid Island Capital, Inc., a Maryland corporation, will be held at our principal executive office, located at 3305 Flamingo Drive, Vero Beach, Florida on June 16, 2020, at 8:00 a.m., Eastern Time, for the following purposes:

1. To elect six directors, each to hold office until the next annual meeting of stockholders and until his or her successor is elected and qualified;
2. To ratify the appointment of BDO USA, LLP as our independent registered public accounting firm for the year ending December 31, 2020;
3. To approve, by a non-binding vote, our executive compensation;
4. To approve, by a non-binding vote, the frequency of future stockholder advisory votes about our executive compensation; and
5. To transact such other business as may properly come before the annual meeting or any adjournments or postponements thereof.

We intend to hold our annual meeting in person in accordance with the requirements, suggestions and protocols that federal, state and local governments have in effect at the time of the meeting regarding the COVID-19 pandemic. However, if the Board of Directors decides that it is not possible or advisable to hold our annual meeting in person, we may convert the annual meeting to a virtual meeting. We will issue a press release as promptly as practicable giving notice of the conversion to a virtual meeting and explain the means of remote communication and the place at which a requesting stockholder may access the meeting on the internet.

The Board of Directors has fixed the close of business on April 14, 2020 as the record date for the annual meeting. Only holders of record of our common stock, \$0.01 par value per share, as of that date are entitled to notice of, and to vote at, the annual meeting and any adjournment or postponement thereof. A list of stockholders entitled to vote at the annual meeting will be available at the annual meeting.

**Your vote is very important. If you do not provide voting instructions, your shares will not be voted or counted on several important matters. We urge you to vote as soon as possible after you receive these proxy materials, even if you plan on attending the annual meeting. These materials explain how to vote via mail, phone or Internet.**

Admission to the annual meeting will be by admission ticket only. If you are a stockholder of record and plan to attend, tear off the admission ticket from the top half of your proxy card and bring it and a photo ID with you so that you may gain admission to the meeting. If your shares are held through a broker, please contact your broker and request that the broker obtain an admission ticket for you or provide you with evidence of your share ownership, which will gain you admission to the annual meeting.

By Order of the Board of Directors,



Robert E. Cauley  
Chairman of the Board and CEO

Vero Beach, Florida  
April 21, 2020

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**PROXY STATEMENT**  
**ANNUAL MEETING OF STOCKHOLDERS**  
**TO BE HELD ON JUNE 16, 2020**

This proxy statement is furnished in connection with the solicitation of proxies by the Board of Directors (the “Board of Directors” or the “Board”) of Orchid Island Capital, Inc., a Maryland corporation, for use at our 2020 Annual Meeting of Stockholders (the “Annual Meeting”) to be held on June 16, 2020, at 8:00 a.m. Eastern Time at the principal executive office of Orchid Island Capital, Inc., 3305 Flamingo Drive, Vero Beach, Florida 32963, and for the purposes set forth in the accompanying Notice of Annual Meeting of Stockholders, and at any adjournments or postponements to the meeting. Unless the context requires otherwise, references in this proxy statement to “ORC,” “our company,” “we,” “us” and the “Company” refer to Orchid Island Capital, Inc.

This proxy statement, the accompanying proxy card and our annual report to stockholders, which includes our annual report on Form 10-K with audited financial statements for the year ended December 31, 2019 (our “2019 Annual Report”), are first being sent to our common stockholders on or about April 21, 2020.

**IMPORTANT NOTICE REGARDING THE AVAILABILITY OF PROXY MATERIALS FOR THE ANNUAL MEETING OF STOCKHOLDERS TO BE HELD ON JUNE 16, 2020:**

This proxy statement and our 2019 Annual Report are available on the Internet at [www.orchidislandcapital.com](http://www.orchidislandcapital.com). On this website, you will be able to access this proxy statement, our 2019 Annual Report, and any amendments or supplements to the foregoing material that is required to be furnished to stockholders.

At the Annual Meeting, action will be taken to:

- (i) elect six directors, each to hold office until the next annual meeting of stockholders and until his or her successor is elected and qualified;
- (ii) ratify the appointment of BDO USA, LLP (“BDO”) as our independent registered public accounting firm for the fiscal year ending December 31, 2020;
- (iii) approve, by a non-binding vote, our executive compensation; and
- (iv) approve, by a non-binding vote, the frequency of future stockholder advisory votes about our executive compensation.

At the discretion of the proxy holders, proxies may be voted on any other business that may properly come before the Annual Meeting or any adjournment of the Annual Meeting.

PROXY STATEMENT SUMMARY

This summary highlights certain information contained elsewhere in this proxy statement. This summary does not contain all of the information you should consider, and you should read the entire proxy statement carefully before voting.

Our Company

Orchid Island Capital, Inc., a Maryland corporation ("Orchid," the "Company," "we" or "us"), is a specialty finance company that invests in residential mortgage-backed securities ("RMBS"). The principal and interest payments of these RMBS are guaranteed by the Federal National Mortgage Association ("Fannie Mae"), the Federal Home Loan Mortgage Corporation ("Freddie Mac") or the Government National Mortgage Association ("Ginnie Mae" and, collectively with Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac, the "GSEs") and are backed primarily by single-family residential mortgage loans. We refer to these types of RMBS as "Agency RMBS." Our investment strategy focuses on, and our portfolio consists of, two categories of Agency RMBS: (i) traditional pass-through Agency RMBS, such as mortgage pass through certificates and collateralized mortgage obligations issued by the GSEs, and (ii) structured Agency RMBS, such as interest only securities, inverse interest only securities and principal only securities, among other types of structured Agency RMBS. We are organized and conduct our operations to qualify to be taxed as a real estate investment trust (a "REIT") for U.S. federal income tax purposes.

ITEMS OF BUSINESS AND VOTING RECOMMENDATIONS

Items for Vote	Board Recommendation
1. Elect the six directors named in this proxy statement	FOR all nominees FOR
2. Ratify the appointment of BDO USA, LLP as the Company's independent registered public accounting firm for 2020	FOR
3. Approve, by a non-binding vote, the overall executive compensation philosophy as described in the "Executive Compensation" section of this proxy statement	FOR
4. Approve, by a non-binding vote, "every one year" as the frequency of advisory votes on executive compensation	FOR

Stockholders may be asked to consider any other business properly brought before the meeting or any adjournment or postponement thereof. The Board is not aware of any other business that might be brought before the meeting.

VOTING AND ADMISSION TO 2020 ANNUAL MEETING OF STOCKHOLDERS

Voting. Stockholders as of the record date, April 14, 2020, will be entitled to vote. Each share of common stock outstanding on the record date is entitled to one vote for each share of our common stock held.

Even if you plan to attend our Annual Meeting in person, please cast your vote as soon as possible by:



Accessing the Internet



Calling toll-free from the United States, U.S. territories and Canada



Mailing your signed proxy or voting instruction form

Check your proxy or voting instruction form for the web address of our Internet voting site and toll-free telephone voting number.

Each stockholder's vote is important. Please submit your vote and proxy via the Internet, by telephone, or complete, sign, date and return your proxy or voting instruction form.

**Corporate Governance Highlights**

- Held 20 Board meetings in 2019.
- Independent directors met in executive session.
- All director nominees serve on no more than three public company boards.
- One-third of our directors are women and are racially diverse.
- One of our six directors joined the Board within the past three years.
- Bylaw Amendments. In 2019, we changed our Bylaws so that the power to alter, amend or repeal the Company’s Bylaws is no longer vested exclusively with the Board. The Company’s stockholders, in addition to the Board, now have the power to alter, amend or repeal the Bylaws and to make new Bylaw provisions, in each case by the affirmative vote of the holders of a majority of the shares of common stock in the Company then outstanding and entitled to vote on the proposed amendment.
- Compensation “Clawback” Policy. Incentive compensation paid to named executive officers whose actions cause, or contribute to, a restatement of the Company’s reported financial or operating results is subject to recoupment.
- Minimum Stock Ownership Guidelines. We have robust stock ownership and retention policies for our directors and executive officers.
- Policy Prohibiting Pledging and Hedging. Directors and executive officers are prohibited from engaging in short-selling, pledging, or hedging transactions in the Company’s securities.
- Annual Board and Committee Self-Evaluations.

**Director Elections**

- Annual election of all directors.
- Majority Vote and Director Resignation Policy. In 2019, we changed the voting standard for director elections from a plurality voting standard to a majority voting standard in uncontested elections, and adopted a director resignation policy, whereby incumbent directors who fail to receive a majority of the votes cast are required to tender a letter of resignation to the Board.

**Board Independence**

- Four of six director nominees are independent.
- All Board committees consist solely of independent directors.
- Lead Independent Director – Frank P. Filippis.
- Two independent director nominees have been determined to be “audit committee financial experts”.

**Stockholder Outreach**

- We have continued our stockholder outreach efforts and intend to expand our stockholder outreach efforts further in the future. In response to stockholder feedback, and in line with our ongoing evaluation of our corporate governance practices and commitment to improved transparency, we have adopted several enhancements to our corporate governance and added enhanced disclosure to our proxy statement.

## ENVIRONMENTAL, SOCIAL AND GOVERNANCE (“ESG”) ACHIEVEMENTS AND HIGHLIGHTS

We seek to drive financial performance while engaging in environmentally and socially responsible business practices grounded in sound corporate governance. We believe that disclosure about our ESG practices allows our stockholders to see our Company holistically and understand its trajectory beyond business fundamentals and financial metrics. Although we have a limited ability to take action on a large scale because we only have one office and no employees, we continue to seek to manage our business in a way that provides positive financial, environmental and social outcomes for our stakeholders.

### **Environmental Initiatives**

The Company has undertaken a number of green initiatives that conserve energy and reduce waste in an effort to minimize the impact of our operations on the environment.

*Recycling.* We use an outside vendor to collect all paper products produced by our operations to collect and recycle the paper on a regular basis. Whenever possible, we use recycled paper products to further reduce our impact on the environment.

*Reduced Electricity Usage.* We attempt to minimize our use of electricity in operating our business. The primary uses of electricity in our business are lighting, temperature control and technology. While we are limited in our ability to limit the use of electricity for our use of technology, we have made investments into our offices to reduce the amount of electricity used in lighting and temperature control. For example, we have reduced the wattage of all office lighting to the fullest extent possible and installed shutters on all windows to reduce the effect of sunlight on the ambient temperature inside our office building. We also installed icynene insulation to further reduce our consumption of electricity. These collective actions permit us to maintain a comfortable temperature in our offices with the minimal consumption of electricity.

*Reusable Drinkware.* This past year we provided employees of our Manager with reusable drinkware to reduce disposable cups and single use drink products.

### **Socially Conscious**

The employees of our Manager drive our success and we are committed to investing in their professional and personal development. We strive to create a dynamic environment where all employees of our Manager can achieve and contribute. The employees of our Manager enjoy what we believe are excellent subsidized health and wellness benefits, reimbursed professional training and development, on-site food and beverages and telecommuting opportunities.

We value diversity and inclusion in the employees of our Manager and our Board of Directors. We recently were recognized for 2020 by *Women on Boards* as 50% of our external directors and 33% of our entire Board are women. Among the Manager’s employees, 28% are women.

The Company plays an integral role in providing permanent financing for residential mortgages originated for American homeowners across the United States. As of December 31, 2019, the Company owned Agency RMBS backed by over 16,500 home loans and owned a partial interest in Agency RMBS backed by several thousand more home loans. Of these loans approximately 39% were made to first time home buyers. Approximately 98% of our assets are backed by loans made to Americans with GSE conforming loan sizes, homeowners who make up the backbone of the American economy. As of December 31, 2019, the Company has approximately 7% of its assets backed by loans to disadvantaged Americans who cannot meet the application requirements of conventional mortgage lenders and rely on the “Home Ready” and “Home Possible” programs offered by Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac, respectively.

### **Governance Highlights**

We are committed to sound corporate governance, which strengthens the accountability of our Board and promotes the long-term interests of our stockholders. We believe that our corporate governance standards and policies yield honest, transparent and accountable directors and executive officers. The summary below highlights our board and leadership practices and notable stockholder rights, as further discussed below.

- Majority of directors are independent (4 out of 6 current directors)
- All Board committees are composed of independent directors
- Independent directors conduct executive sessions
- Directors maintain open communication and strong working relationships among themselves and regular access to management
- Directors conduct robust annual Board and committee self-assessment process
- Directors and executives adhere to minimum share ownership guidelines
- Executives are prohibited from pledging, hedging or engaging in short sales involving our securities
- Executives are subject to a claw-back policy
- Majority voting for the uncontested election of directors where directors are elected by a majority of the votes cast
- Stockholders have the right to amend bylaws
- All directors elected annually (declassified Board)
- Annual say-on-pay voting
- Stockholder engagement efforts
  
- Annual review of succession planning for senior management
- Two Audit Committee financial experts
- Full member of National Association of Corporate Directors (“NACD”)
- Board members and senior management attend seminars conducted by industry experts covering accounting, corporate governance and legal issues
- Company maintains a Code of Business Conduct and Ethics, Code of Ethics for Senior Financial Officers and Corporate Governance Guidelines
  
- Company maintains a Confidential Whistleblower Policy and Related Party Transaction Policy

### **Governance Documents**

Governance policies and other governance documents are available on the Company’s website at: [www.orchidislandcapital.com](http://www.orchidislandcapital.com). The information on our website is not a part of this proxy statement.



## GENERAL INFORMATION ABOUT VOTING

### Solicitation of Proxies

The enclosed proxy is solicited by and on behalf of our Board. We will bear the expense of soliciting proxies for the Annual Meeting, including the mailing cost. In addition to solicitation by mail, our officers or an agent of our designation may solicit proxies from stockholders by telephone, e-mail, facsimile or personal interview. Our officers receive no additional compensation for such services. Upon request, we will reimburse brokers, dealers, banks and trustees, or their nominees, for reasonable expenses incurred by them in forwarding our proxy materials to beneficial owners of our common stock.

### Voting Securities

The Board of Directors has fixed the close of business on April 14, 2020 as the record date (the "Record Date") for determining the holders of our common stock entitled to receive notice of and to vote at the Annual Meeting and any adjournments or postponements thereof. On the Record Date, there were 66,236,639 shares of our common stock outstanding. Only common stockholders of record on the Record Date are entitled to vote at the Annual Meeting, and such stockholders will be entitled to one vote for each share of our common stock held, which may be given in person or by proxy duly authorized in writing, by telephone or by Internet.

### Voting

If you hold shares of our common stock in your own name as a holder of record, you may instruct the proxies to vote your shares through any of the following methods:

*By Telephone or the Internet:* Common stockholders can vote their shares via telephone or the Internet as instructed in the proxy card.

*By Mail:* A common stockholder may elect to vote by mail and should complete, sign and date the proxy card and mail it in the pre-addressed envelope that accompanies the delivery of the proxy card. For common stockholders of record, proxy cards submitted by mail must be received by the date and time of the Annual Meeting. For common stockholders that hold their shares through an intermediary, such as a broker, bank or other nominee, the voting instruction form submitted by mail must be mailed by the deadline imposed by your bank, broker or other agent for your shares to be voted.

*In Person:* Shares of common stock held in your name as the stockholder of record may be voted by you in person at the Annual Meeting. Shares of common stock held beneficially in street name may be voted by you in person at the Annual Meeting only if you obtain a "legal" proxy from the broker or other agent that holds your shares giving you the right to vote the shares and bring that "legal" proxy to the meeting.

### Quorum

A quorum will be present at the Annual Meeting if the holders of a majority of the outstanding shares entitled to vote are present, in person or by proxy. If you have returned valid voting instructions or if you hold your shares in your own name as a holder of record and attend the Annual Meeting in person with your proxy, your shares will be counted for the purpose of determining whether there is a quorum. If a quorum is not present, the Annual Meeting may be postponed or adjourned until a quorum has been obtained. Because there were 66,236,639 eligible votes as of the Record Date, we will need at least 33,118,320 votes present in person or by proxy at the Annual Meeting for a quorum to exist.

### Abstentions and "Broker Non-Votes"

A "broker non-vote" occurs when a broker, bank or other nominee holding shares of common stock on your behalf votes the shares on some matters but not others because that holder does not have discretionary voting power for that particular item and has not received instructions from the beneficial owner. Pursuant to Maryland law, abstentions and broker non-votes are counted as present for purposes of determining the presence of a quorum.

Under the rules of the New York Stock Exchange (the “NYSE”), brokerage firms may have the discretionary authority to vote their customers’ shares on certain routine matters for which they do not receive voting instructions, including the ratification of the independent registered public accounting firm. The uncontested election of directors is not considered a “routine” matter, and therefore brokers holding shares beneficially owned by their clients do not have the ability to cast votes, unless the brokers have received instructions from the beneficial owners of the shares. As a result, it is important that you provide instructions to your broker so that your shares will be counted in that matter.

#### **Vote Required to Approve an Item of Business**

*Election of Directors (Proposal 1).* The affirmative vote of a majority of all of the votes cast at a meeting of stockholders duly called and at which a quorum is present is necessary for the election of directors. For purposes of Proposal 1, abstentions and broker non-votes will not be counted as votes cast and will have no effect on the result of the vote.

*Ratification of Appointment of BDO (Proposal 2).* The affirmative vote of a majority of all of the votes cast at a meeting of stockholders duly called and at which a quorum is present is required to ratify the appointment of BDO as our independent registered public accounting firm for the year ending December 31, 2020. For purposes of the vote on Proposal 2, abstentions will not be counted as votes cast and will have no effect on the result of the vote.

*Approval of our Executive Compensation (Proposal 3).* The affirmative vote of a majority of all of the votes cast at a meeting of stockholders duly called and at which a quorum is present is required to approve, by a non-binding vote, our executive compensation. For purposes of the vote on Proposal 3, abstentions and broker non-votes will not be counted as votes cast and will have no effect on the result of the vote.

*Approval of the Frequency of Future Stockholder Advisory Votes on Executive Compensation (Proposal 4).* The option (every one, two or three years) receiving the greatest number of “for” votes will be considered the frequency recommended by stockholders at a meeting of stockholders duly called and at which a quorum is present. For purposes of the vote on Proposal 4, abstentions and broker non-votes will not be counted as votes cast and will have no effect on the result of the vote.

If you sign and return your proxy card without giving specific voting instructions, your shares will be voted as recommended by our Board.

#### **Right to Revoke Proxy**

You have the right to revoke your proxy at any time before the Annual Meeting. If you are a holder of record, you may contact our corporate secretary and request that another proxy card be sent to you. Alternatively, you may use the Internet or the telephone to authorize a new proxy and revoke your old proxy, even if you previously mailed in a proxy card. The latest-dated, properly completed proxy that you submit, whether through the Internet, by telephone or by mail, will count as your vote. Please note that if you submit a later proxy authorization by mail, your reauthorization will not be effective unless it is received by our corporate secretary prior to the start of the Annual Meeting. Attendance at the Annual Meeting will not by itself constitute revocation of a previously submitted, properly completed proxy. If your shares are held in street name, you must contact your bank, broker or other nominee and follow their procedures for changing your vote instructions.

**PROPOSAL 1: ELECTION OF DIRECTORS**

Pursuant to our corporate charter, holders of our common stock elect each of the members of the Board of Directors annually. The Board has set six directors as the number to be elected at the Annual Meeting and has nominated the individuals named below. All nominees are currently directors of the Company and have been previously elected by our stockholders. Each nominee has been nominated by the Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee of the Board of Directors, in accordance with our bylaws, to stand for re-election at the Annual Meeting and to hold office until our annual meeting to be held in 2021 and until his or her successor is duly elected and qualified. It is expected that each of the nominees will be able to serve, but if any such nominee is unable to serve for any reason, the proxies reserve discretion to vote or refrain from voting for a substitute nominee or nominees. A common stockholder using the enclosed form of proxy can vote for or against any or all of the nominees or may abstain from voting for any or all of the nominees.

We believe that all of our director nominees possess the personal and professional qualifications necessary to serve as a member of our Board of Directors. Our directors have been evaluated by the Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee pursuant to the guidelines described below under “Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee,” and the determination was made that each of them fulfills and exceeds the qualities that we look for in members of our Board of Directors. Messrs. Cauley and Haas are affiliates of Bimini Advisors, LLC, which is the Company’s manager (the “Manager”). The Board has determined that each of our director nominees, other than Messrs. Cauley and Haas, is an independent director as discussed below under “Director Independence.”

The information set forth below is current as of April 21, 2020 with respect to each nominee for election at the Annual Meeting. The business address of each nominee is Orchid Island Capital, Inc., 3305 Flamingo Dr., Vero Beach, Florida 32963. We have highlighted specific attributes for each Board member below.

**THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS RECOMMENDS A VOTE FOR  
THE ELECTION OF ALL DIRECTOR NOMINEES.**

## NOMINEES FOR DIRECTOR

### **ROBERT E. CAULEY, CFA**

*Chairman, President and Chief Executive Officer*

Director since August 2010

Age 61

Mr. Cauley has been our Chairman, President and Chief Executive Officer (“CEO”) since August 2010 and is the President, Chairman and CEO of our Manager. Mr. Cauley co-founded Bimini Capital Management, Inc. (“Bimini”) in 2003 and has served as its CEO and Chairman of the Board of Directors since April 2008. He served as Vice-Chairman, Chief Financial Officer and Chief Investment Officer prior to April 2008. Prior to co-founding Bimini in 2003, Mr. Cauley was a vice-president and portfolio manager at Federated Investors in Pittsburgh from 1996 to 2003. Prior to 1996, Mr. Cauley was a member of the ABS/MBS structuring desk at Lehman Brothers from 1994 to 1996 and a credit analyst at Barclays Bank, PLC from 1992 to 1994. Mr. Cauley is a CPA (inactive status) and served in the United States Marine Corps for four years. We believe that Mr. Cauley should continue to serve as a member of our Board of Directors due to his experience managing a publicly-traded REIT and his career as a RMBS portfolio manager.

### **GEORGE H. HAAS, IV**

*Chief Financial Officer and Chief Investment Officer*

Director since August 2010

Age 43

Mr. Haas has been our Chief Financial Officer and Chief Investment Officer since August 2010 and has served on our Board of Directors since August 2010. Mr. Haas is the Chief Investment Officer and Chief Financial Officer of our Manager. Mr. Haas has been the President, Chief Investment Officer and Chief Financial Officer of Bimini since April 2008. Prior to assuming those roles with Bimini, he was Bimini’s Senior Vice President and Head of Research and Trading. Mr. Haas joined Bimini in May 2004 as Vice President and Head of Mortgage Research. He has over 15 years of experience in this industry and has managed trading operations for the portfolio since his arrival in May 2004. Mr. Haas has approximately twelve years of experience as a member of senior management of a publicly-traded REIT. He has also been a member of the Board of Managers of Royal Palm Capital, LLC since 2007. Prior to joining Bimini, Mr. Haas worked in the mortgage industry as a member of a team responsible for hedging a servicing portfolio at both National City Mortgage and Homeside Lending, Inc. We believe that Mr. Haas should continue to serve as a member of our Board of Directors due to his experience as the Chief Financial Officer of a publicly-traded REIT and his experience in the mortgage industry.

### **W COLEMAN BITTING**

*Director since February 2013*

Age 54

Mr. Bitting has maintained a private consulting practice focused on REITs since July 2007. Mr. Bitting was a Founding Partner and Head of Corporate Finance at Flagstone Securities (“Flagstone”), a leading investment bank that specialized in mortgage REITs and finance companies, from 2000 to February 2007. Flagstone managed more than 40 equity offerings raising more than \$5 billion of equity capital. Flagstone helped clients build investment and liability management practices. Prior to Flagstone, Mr. Bitting held senior equity research positions at Stifel, Nicholas & Co. Inc. and Kidder, Peabody & Co., Inc. Due to his significant capital markets experience and experience analyzing and advising REITs, we believe Mr. Bitting should continue to serve as a member of our Board of Directors.

### **FRANK P. FILIPPS**

*Director since February 2013*

Age 72

From 2005 to July 2008, Mr. Filippis served as the Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of Clayton Holdings, Inc., a mortgage services company, leading it through its initial public offering and listing on the Nasdaq, as well as its subsequent sale. Prior to that, Mr. Filippis was employed by the Radian Group, Inc., spending two years as Senior Vice President and Chief Financial Officer, one year as Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer and 10 years as Chairman and Chief Executive Officer. In his time with the Radian Group, Inc., Mr. Filippis led the company through its initial public offering and listing on the NYSE. Prior to his tenure with the Radian Group, Inc., Mr. Filippis spent 17 years with American International Group, Inc. (“AIG”) (NYSE: AIG), where he held multiple Vice President-level positions and was the President, Chief Executive Officer and founder of AIG Capital Corporation, the first non-insurance financial company within AIG, which focused on interest rate swaps, foreign exchange and equity arbitrage and leveraged buyout bridge financing. Mr. Filippis has served as a director and the chair of the audit committee of Impac Mortgage Holdings, Inc. (NYSE Amex: IMH) since 1995, as a director of Primus Guaranty, Ltd. (NYSE: PRSG) from 2002 through 2014 and as chair of its compensation committee from 2002 to 2006 and its nominating and corporate governance committee from 2007 to 2011. Mr. Filippis has also served as a director of Ready Capital Corporation (f/k/a Sutherland Asset Management Corp.) (NYSE: RC) since 2014. He has also served as a director and chairman of the governance committee of Fortegra Financial Corp. (NYSE: FRF) from 2010 through 2014 and as chair of its nominating and governance committee from 2010 to 2011 and its compensation committee since 2012. Due to his financial and business expertise, diversified management background, extensive experience with real estate-related and mortgage services companies, and experience as a director of other public companies, we believe Mr. Filippis should continue to serve as a member of our Board of Directors.

**AVA L. PARKER***Director since February 2013*

Age 57

In 2015, Ms. Parker was appointed as the 5th President of Palm Beach State College. Palm Beach State serves over 48,000 students annually and offers Bachelors and Associates degrees, and awards technical certificates. Prior to her appointment to Palm Beach State College, she served as the Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer of Florida Polytechnic University from 2012-2015. From 2001-2015, Ms. Parker was a partner in the law firm of Lawrence & Parker, PA, where she served as bond counsel and underwriter's counsel in connection with municipal finance transactions as well as assisted for-profit and not-for-profit clients with corporate organization, development and interpretation of contracts and litigation issues. From 2002-2015, Ms. Parker also served as the President of Linking Solutions, Inc., which provided training, technical support and program management services in the public and private sectors. In 2006, Ms. Parker was appointed to the Jacksonville Transportation Authority Board of Directors, where she previously served as a Board Member and Chairman. Ms. Parker also served as a Board Member and Chair of the State of Florida Board of Governors of the State University System. Due to her experience as an executive, her leadership on several private, state and municipal boards, and her experience with complex financial transactions and corporate counseling, we believe Ms. Parker should continue to serve as a member of our Board of Directors.

**PAULA MORABITO***Director since December 2017*

Age 64

Ms. Morabito was an audit partner at Ernst & Young, LLP, where she served as a Real Estate, Hospitality and Construction Leader of the Southeast Region, a position she held from 2007 through her retirement in 2016. Ms. Morabito had been with Ernst & Young, LLP for over 25 years and held various leadership positions in the organization, serving on both the Southeast Region Assurance Operating Committee and the Real Estate Operating Committee during her tenure. Ms. Morabito currently serves as a consultant with Morabito Consulting LLC. Ms. Morabito brings insight from approximately 34 years of experience and leadership in the accounting and real estate finance industry, which strengthens the Board of Directors' collective knowledge, capabilities and experience.

## CORPORATE GOVERNANCE

We believe that we have implemented effective corporate governance policies and observe good corporate governance procedures and practices. We have adopted a number of written policies, including corporate governance guidelines, a code of business conduct and ethics, a code of ethics for senior financial officers, a whistleblower policy and charters for our Audit Committee, Compensation Committee and Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee. These written policies can be found on our website at [www.orchidislandcapital.com](http://www.orchidislandcapital.com).

As part of our ongoing efforts to review and evaluate our corporate governance, we have adopted several corporate governance improvements in the past four years, including the following (as described in more detail below):

### 2020

- *ESG Disclosure.* We included disclosure in this proxy statement about our ESG achievements and highlights.

### 2019

- *Majority Vote and Director Resignation Policy.* We changed the voting standard for director elections from a plurality voting standard to a majority voting standard in uncontested elections and adopted a director resignation policy, whereby incumbent directors who fail to receive a majority of the votes cast are required to promptly tender a letter of resignation to the Board.
- *Bylaw Amendments.* We changed our Bylaws so that the power to alter, amend or repeal the Company's Bylaws is no longer vested exclusively with the Board. The Company's stockholders, in addition to the Board, now have the power to alter, amend or repeal the Bylaws and to make new Bylaw provisions, in each case by the affirmative vote of the holders of a majority of the shares of common stock in the Company then outstanding and entitled to vote on the proposed amendment.

### 2018

- *Compensation "Clawback" Policy.* Incentive compensation paid to named executive officers whose actions cause, or contribute to, a restatement of the Company's reported financial or operating results is subject to recoupment via the Company's compensation "clawback" policy.
- *Minimum Stock Ownership Guidelines.* We adopted robust stock ownership and retention policies for our directors and executive officers.

### 2017

- *Policy Prohibiting Pledging and Hedging.* Directors and executive officers are prohibited from engaging in short-selling, pledging, or hedging transactions in the Company's securities.

### **Stockholder Outreach**

We have continued our stockholder outreach efforts and intend to expand our stockholder outreach efforts further in the future. In response to stockholder feedback, and in line with our ongoing evaluation of our corporate governance practices and commitment to improved transparency, we have adopted several enhancements to our corporate governance and added enhanced disclosure to our proxy statement. The Company looks forward to continuing to find innovative ways to engage with its stockholders.

### **Board of Directors Composition**

Our business and affairs are managed under the direction of our Board of Directors. Members of our Board of Directors are kept informed of our business through discussions with our chairman, CEO and other officers, by reviewing materials provided to them, and participating in regular meetings of our Board of Directors and its committees. The Board of Directors is currently comprised of six directors, all of whom stand for election annually. The Board of Directors is elected by our stockholders to oversee management of the Company.

During the year ended December 31, 2019, our Board of Directors held 20 meetings. Each director standing for election attended more than 75 percent of the meetings of our Board of Directors and committees on which he or she served that were held during the period for which such person was a director. Directors are expected to attend all meetings of the Board, meetings of committees on which they serve, and annual meetings of stockholders. All of our directors attended the 2019 annual meeting in person, and all of our directors are expected to attend the Annual Meeting in person this year.

### Director Independence

The NYSE Listed Company Manual outlines the requirements for a director to be deemed independent by the NYSE, including the mandate that our Board affirmatively determine that each of our directors has no material relationship with us that would impair their independence. Our Board of Directors has reviewed both direct and indirect transactions and relationships that each of our directors had or maintained with us and our management. Our Board of Directors affirmatively determined that four of our current directors are independent directors under the NYSE Listed Company Manual based upon the fact that they did not have any material relationships with us other than as directors and holders of our common stock. Our current independent directors are W Coleman Biting, Frank P. Filippis, Paula Morabito and Ava L. Parker. Robert E. Cauley and George H. Haas, IV are not considered independent because they are employees of Bimini, which is the sole member of our Manager. Therefore, our Board of Directors is comprised of a majority of independent directors.

### Board Diversity

We do not have a formal policy about diversity, but the Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee does consider certain types of diversity when nominating director candidates to the Board, including differences of viewpoint, professional experience, education, skill, other personal qualities and attributes, race, gender and national origin. One-third of our directors are women and are racially diverse.

### Board Meetings and Committees

The Board of Directors currently has three standing committees: the Audit Committee, the Compensation Committee and the Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee. The charter of each Board committee is available on the Corporate Governance section of our website at [www.orchidislandcapital.com](http://www.orchidislandcapital.com) and will be made available in print to any stockholder upon written request delivered to our corporate secretary at Orchid Island Capital, Inc., 3305 Flamingo Drive, Vero Beach, Florida 32963.

The following table reflects the composition of each of the Board of Director's standing committees as of April 21, 2020 and the number of meetings held during 2019.

	Audit	Compensation	Nominating and Corporate Governance
W Coleman Biting	■	■	
Frank P. Filippis	■	■	■
Paula Morabito	■		■
Ava L. Parker		■	■
<b>Number of Meetings</b>	8	5	5
■ Chair of Committee			
■ Member of Committee			

### Audit Committee

Mr. Filippis chairs our Audit Committee. The Board of Directors has determined that each of Mr. Filippis and Ms. Morabito qualifies as an "audit committee financial expert," as that term is defined by Item 407(d)(5)(ii) of Regulation S-K. In addition, the Board of Directors has determined that each member of the Audit Committee is financially literate and able to read and understand fundamental financial statements. The Board of Directors has also determined that each of W Coleman Biting, Frank P. Filippis and Paula Morabito are independent as defined in Rule 10A-3 of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended (the "Exchange Act"), and as defined in the NYSE Listed Company Manual and our Corporate Governance Guidelines. The Audit Committee assists our Board of Directors in overseeing:

- our accounting and financial reporting processes;
- the integrity and audits of our financial statements;
- our compliance with legal and regulatory requirements;
- the qualifications and independence of our independent registered public accounting firm; and
- the performance of our independent registered public accounting firm and any internal auditors.

The Audit Committee is also responsible for engaging our independent registered public accounting firm, reviewing with the independent registered public accounting firm the plans and results of the audit engagement, approving professional services provided by the independent registered public accounting firm, reviewing the independence of the independent registered public accounting firm, considering the range of audit and non-audit fees and reviewing the adequacy of our internal accounting controls. The Audit Committee's purpose and responsibilities are more fully set forth in the Audit Committee charter, which is available in the Corporate Governance section of our website at [www.orchidislandcapital.com](http://www.orchidislandcapital.com).

#### ***Compensation Committee***

Mr. Bitting chairs our Compensation Committee. The Compensation Committee exercises all powers delegated to it by the Board of Directors in connection with compensation matters, which include reviewing our overall executive officer and director compensation structure, policies and programs, making determinations as to appropriate levels of executive officer compensation, administering the issuance of any equity awards under our 2012 Equity Incentive Plan (the "2012 Plan"), making recommendations to the Board of Directors with respect to the 2012 Plan and any other incentive compensation plans and equity-based plans and other compensation-related matters. Our Compensation Committee may designate a sub-committee of at least one member to address specific issues on behalf of the committee. The Compensation Committee's purpose and responsibilities are more fully set forth in the Compensation Committee charter, which is available in the Corporate Governance section of our website at [www.orchidislandcapital.com](http://www.orchidislandcapital.com).

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

Ms. Parker chairs the Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee, which is responsible for seeking, considering and recommending to our full Board of Directors qualified candidates for election as directors and recommending a slate of nominees for election as directors at the Annual Meeting. It also periodically prepares and submits the committee's selection criteria for director nominees to our Board of Directors for adoption. It reviews and makes recommendations on matters involving the general operation of our Board of Directors and our corporate governance, and annually recommends to our Board of Directors nominees for each committee of our Board of Directors. In addition, the committee annually facilitates the assessment of our Board of Directors' performance as a whole and of the individual directors and reports thereon to our Board of Directors.

Before each annual meeting of stockholders, the Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee considers the nomination of all directors whose terms expire at the next annual meeting of stockholders and also will consider new candidates whenever there is a vacancy on the Board or whenever a vacancy is anticipated due to a change in the size or composition of the Board, a retirement of a director or for any other reason. The Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee identifies director candidates based on recommendations from directors, stockholders, management and others. The committee may in the future engage the services of third-party search firms to assist in identifying or evaluating director candidates. No such firm was engaged in 2019.



Our Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee charter provides that the committee will consider nominations for membership on our Board by our stockholders. The rules that must be followed for the committee to consider nominations are contained in the committee’s charter and our bylaws and include the following:

- (i) the nominating stockholder must have owned, for at least six months prior to the date the nomination is submitted, shares of the Company’s common stock or preferred stock, if any, entitled to vote for directors;
- (ii) the nomination must be received by the Committee pursuant to the Company’s bylaws, which, among other things, requires notice to be provided at least 120 days, but not more than 150 days, before the first anniversary of the mailing date for the proxy materials applicable to the annual meeting prior to the annual meeting for which such nomination is proposed for submission; and
- (iii) a detailed statement that includes the qualifications, as well as the written consent, of each nominated person must accompany each nomination submitted, as well as any information required by the Company’s bylaws.

The Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee evaluates the effectiveness of the Board as a whole and of each individual director annually and identifies any areas in which the Board would be better served by adding new members with different skills, backgrounds or areas of experience. The Board considers director candidates, including those nominated by stockholders, based on a number of factors including: whether the Board member will be “independent,” as such term is defined by the NYSE listing standards; whether the candidate possesses the highest personal and professional ethics, integrity and values; whether the candidate contributes to the overall diversity of the Board; and whether the candidate has an inquisitive and objective perspective, practical wisdom and mature judgment. Candidates are also evaluated on their understanding of our business, experience and willingness to devote adequate time to carrying out their duties. The Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee also monitors the mix of skills, experience and background to assure that the Board has the necessary composition to effectively perform its oversight function.

The following list summarizes a number of the competencies currently represented by our director nominees that we believe are important to their oversight of our business and operations.

Leadership	Investment Activities	Governance
Public Company Executive Experience	Mortgage-Backed Securities	Audit
Public Company Board Experience	Counterparty Risk Management	Compensation
Investor Relations	Finance	Regulatory Compliance
	Capital Markets	
	Hedging	

The Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee’s purpose and responsibilities are more fully set forth in the Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee charter, which is available in the Corporate Governance section of our website at [www.orchidilandcapital.com](http://www.orchidilandcapital.com).

**Board of Directors Leadership Structure**

The Board of Directors believes it should maintain flexibility to select the Chairman of the Board and the CEO based on criteria and qualifications that the Board deems to be in the best interests of the Company. At this time, the positions of Chairman of the Board and CEO are combined. Robert E. Cauley holds these positions and leads our Board of Directors meetings. The Board believes Mr. Cauley’s extensive experience and knowledge regarding the Company’s business positions him to provide the most effective and competent leadership of the Company and the Board. As a founding officer of the Company and a co-founder of our Manager, Mr. Cauley has the familiarity and expertise to best understand opportunities and risks facing the Company, and the Board believes that he is in the best position to lead both the Company and the Board.

The Board also recognizes the importance of strong independent leadership, and therefore also has a lead independent director, Frank P. Filippis. The duties and responsibilities of the lead independent director include the following:

- Following consultation with the Chairman and CEO and other directors, providing input into and approving Board meeting agendas and schedules, assuring that there is sufficient time for discussion of all agenda items;
- Calling special meetings or executive sessions of the Board and calling and presiding at executive sessions or meetings of non-management or independent directors and, as appropriate, providing feedback to the Chairman and CEO and otherwise serving as a liaison between the independent directors and the Chairman;
- Working with committee chairs to ensure coordinated coverage of Board responsibilities;
- Facilitating communication between the Board and senior management, including advising the Chairman and CEO of the Board's informational needs and approving the types and forms of information sent to the Board;
- Serving as an additional point of contact for Board members and stockholders and being available for consultation and direct communication with major stockholders; and
- Staying informed about the strategy and performance of the Company and reinforcing that expectation for all Board members.

Each of the Board of Director's standing committees are chaired by independent directors, and in that capacity, they are able to call meetings, set agendas and direct the attention of those committees on a wide range of corporate matters. Given the nature and scope of our current operations and our small management team, the Board of Directors believes that our current leadership structure and allocation of responsibilities is appropriate while maintaining strong independence.

#### **Board Role in Risk Oversight**

The Board of Directors as a whole has responsibility for risk oversight, with reviews of certain areas being conducted by the relevant Board committees. The Audit Committee oversees management of financial risks and risks relating to potential conflicts of interest. The Compensation Committee is responsible for overseeing the management of risks relating to compensation arrangements. The Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee manages risks associated with the size, composition and independence of the Board of Directors. These committees provide reports periodically to the full Board of Directors. The oversight responsibility of the Board of Directors and its committees is supported by management reporting processes that are designed to provide visibility to the Board of Directors about the identification, assessment and management of critical risks. These areas of focus include strategic, operational, financial and reporting, compensation, cybersecurity, legal and compliance and other risks. The management reporting process includes regular reports from the CEO, which are provided with input from the senior management team.

#### **Majority Vote and Director Resignation Policy**

The Company's Bylaws include a majority voting standard in uncontested elections (in which a nominee is elected only if the votes cast "for" his or her election exceed the votes cast "against" his or her election). The Bylaws also include a plurality voting standard in contested elections, which includes an election for which, as of the date that is fourteen (14) days in advance of the date the Company files its definitive proxy statement, there are more nominees for election than positions on the Board to be filled by that election.

Pursuant to the Company's Corporate Governance Guidelines, which were also amended and restated to include a director resignation provision, incumbent directors who fail to receive a majority of the votes cast are required to promptly tender a letter of resignation to the Board, and the Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee of the Board will make a recommendation to the Board on whether to accept or reject the resignation, or whether any other action should be taken. Taking into account the recommendation of the Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee, the Board will determine whether to accept or reject any such resignation, or what other action should be taken within 120 days from the date of the certification of the election results, and the Company will report such decision in a Current Report on Form 8-K filed with the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission ("SEC").

## **Bylaw Amendments**

The Bylaws also provide that the Company's stockholders, in addition to the Board, shall have the power to alter, amend or repeal the Bylaws and to make new Bylaw provisions, in each case by the affirmative vote of the holders of a majority of the shares of common stock in the Company then outstanding and entitled to vote on the proposed amendment. Stockholders must submit proposed amendments to the Company's Bylaws in compliance with the Company's Bylaws.

## **Policy Prohibiting Pledging and Hedging**

The Company has a Policy Prohibiting Pledging and Hedging that applies to all officers and directors of the Company and provides that such individuals are prohibited from (i) making or maintaining any pledges of securities of the Company or otherwise holding securities of the Company in a margin account, or (ii) engaging in any hedging transactions with respect to securities of the Company.

## **Minimum Stock Ownership Guidelines**

Each executive officer is required to retain an amount equal to at least 66% of the net shares received through the Company's stock incentive plans. "Net shares" are those shares that remain after shares are sold or netted to pay the exercise price of stock options (if applicable) and withholding taxes. There is no minimum time period required for executive officers to achieve the stock ownership guidelines.

Directors who are not also executive officers of the Company are required to hold shares of the Company's common stock or deferred stock units with a value equal to three times the amount of the annual cash retainer paid to directors. Directors are required to achieve the stock ownership guideline by January 10, 2023 (the fifth anniversary of the adoption of the stock ownership guidelines) or within five years of first appointment to the Board, whichever is later. Until the stock ownership guideline is achieved, each director is encouraged to retain 60% of net shares or deferred stock units received through the Company's stock incentive plans.

## **Incentive Compensation Recoupment Policy**

Pursuant to its Incentive Compensation Recoupment Policy ("Clawback Policy"), in the event of a required restatement of the Company's financial statements due to material non-compliance with any financial reporting requirement under applicable securities laws (a "Restatement"), the Compensation Committee has the right, as to each named executive officer of the Company (each, a "Covered Executive"), to cause the Company to require the reimbursement or forfeiture by such Covered Executive, to the extent permitted by applicable law, of up to an amount equal to the difference between (i) the Incentive Compensation (as defined below) paid to such Covered Executive based on the original financial information and (ii) the Incentive Compensation that would have been paid to such Covered Executive based on the information included in the Restatement, as determined by the Compensation Committee in its sole discretion.

For purposes of the Clawback Policy, "Incentive Compensation" means any cash, equity or equity-based compensation, payment or award granted under any of the Company's incentive compensation plans (including awards subject to service-based, performance-based or other conditions, or any combination of the foregoing) that is (i) granted, earned or vested based wholly or in part upon the attainment of any financial reporting measure (which includes, without limitation, the Company's stock price or total stockholder return) and (ii) deemed to be received by the Covered Executive, in each case, during the fiscal period(s) affected or covered by the Restatement, including any fiscal period ending prior to December 13, 2017, the effective date of the Clawback Policy. For purposes of the Clawback Policy, Incentive Compensation is deemed to be received during the fiscal period in which the applicable financial reporting measure is attained, even if the payment or grant occurs later. Notwithstanding the foregoing, if the Compensation Committee determines that a Restatement is required, the Incentive Compensation that may be subject to recoupment under the Clawback Policy will be limited to Incentive Compensation received during the two completed fiscal years immediately preceding the date upon which the Compensation Committee makes such determination.

## Cyber Security

Both our Manager and our Board of Directors place a high priority on maintaining security over our financial information that can be accessed via the internet. Our Manager's information technology team attempts to maintain a state-of-the-art cyber security system and stay up to date on the latest threats and counter measures available. Our Manager has had the information technology team make formal presentations to our Board of Directors from time to time so as to keep the Board apprised of the level of cyber security that exists to protect our financial information and the latest threats that have emerged. Our Manager's information technology team attends continuing education seminars provided by leading security and software providers in the industry and receives timely alerts to any new viruses or cyber threats as they occur.

## COMPENSATION COMMITTEE INTERLOCKS AND INSIDER PARTICIPATION

No member of the Compensation Committee was at any time during 2019 an officer or employee of ours or any of our affiliates, nor is any member a former officer of ours or any of our affiliates. In addition, no executive officer of the Company currently serves as a director or member of the Compensation Committee of any entity that has one or more executive officers serving as one of our directors.

### COMPENSATION OF DIRECTORS

#### 2019 Compensation

Our non-employee director cash compensation for 2019 was as set forth in the table below.

Annual cash retainer	\$ 70,000 <sup>(1)</sup>
Board and Committee Meeting Fee (in person attendance)	\$ 1,500
Board and Committee Meeting Fee (telephonic attendance)	\$ 1,000
Annual Equity Compensation	\$ 45,000

(1) The Chair of the Audit Committee received an additional annual cash retainer of \$12,500, and the Chairs of the Compensation Committee and the Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee each received an additional annual cash retainer of \$7,500.

The following table sets forth the compensation paid to non-employee directors during 2019:

#### Director Compensation\*

Name	Fees Earned or Paid in Cash	Stock Awards <sup>(1)</sup>	All Other Compensation	Total
W Coleman Bitting	\$ 115,014	\$ 44,986	\$ —	\$ 160,000
Frank P. Filippis	123,514	44,986	—	168,500
Ava L. Parker	107,014	44,986	—	152,000
Paula Morabito	105,514	44,986	—	150,500

\* Columns for "Non-Equity Incentive Plan Compensation," "Option Awards" and "Changes in Pension Value and Nonqualified Compensation Earnings" have been omitted because they were not applicable.

(1) Amount represents the aggregate grant date fair value of stock awards based on the closing market price of our common stock on the date of grant, which is recognized as expense on a straight-line basis over the related requisite service period. A portion of this amount represents the grant date fair value of shares of common stock as part of the directors' annual retainer fees.

Additionally, each independent director receives reimbursement for travel and hotel expenses associated with attending such Board and committee meetings, as well as for his or her attendance at other meetings or events related to the Company. Non-employee directors may also be reimbursed for out-of-pocket expenses incurred in attending conferences or educational seminars that relate to their Board services. These retainer fees are paid quarterly.

Compensation of our directors creates a linkage between the long-term equity-based compensation for non-employee directors and the preservation of stockholders' book value per share, and promotes equity accumulation and ownership by our directors. These factors promote significant alignment with the interests of our long-term stockholders and with the risk-management emphasis of our investment philosophy.

We granted deferred stock units ("DSUs") to non-employee directors at the end of each quarter in 2019 for a portion of their annual retainer. For each quarter of 2019, the cash value of each quarter's equity award was set at \$11,250. The use of multiple grants during each calendar year emphasizes the continuity of risk-assessment and risk-management over time.

Non-employee directors can elect to receive a portion of their compensation in the form of DSUs pursuant to the 2012 Plan. Each DSU represents a right to receive one share of the Company's common stock. The DSUs are immediately vested and are settled at a future date based on the election of the individual participant. The DSUs contain dividend equivalent rights, which entitle the participant to receive distributions declared by the Company on common stock. These dividend equivalent rights are settled in cash or additional DSUs at the participant's election. The DSUs do not include the right to vote the underlying shares of common stock.

## 2020 Compensation

Cash compensation for our non-employee directors will remain the same in 2020 as it was in 2019. For each quarter of 2020, the cash value of each quarter's equity award is set at \$11,250.

**PROPOSAL 2: TO RATIFY THE SELECTION OF INDEPENDENT REGISTERED PUBLIC ACCOUNTING FIRM**

Our Audit Committee has selected the accounting firm of BDO USA, LLP to serve as our independent registered public accounting firm for the year ending December 31, 2020, subject to ratification of this appointment by our stockholders. Action by stockholders is not required by law in the appointment of an independent registered public accounting firm, but this appointment is submitted by the Board of Directors in order to give the stockholders a voice in the designation of auditors. If the appointment is not ratified by the stockholders, the Board of Directors will reconsider its choice of BDO as our independent registered public accounting firm. BDO has advised us that neither it nor any member thereof has any financial interest, direct or indirect, in the Company in any capacity. BDO has served as our independent registered public accounting firm since our formation in August 2010.

The Company anticipates that a representative of BDO will be present at the Annual Meeting, will be given the opportunity to make a statement if he or she so desires and will be available to respond to appropriate questions.

**THE BOARD RECOMMENDS A VOTE FOR  
THE RATIFICATION OF THE SELECTION OF BDO USA, LLP  
AS OUR INDEPENDENT REGISTERED PUBLIC ACCOUNTING FIRM.**

**PRE-APPROVAL POLICIES AND PROCEDURES OF OUR AUDIT COMMITTEE**

Our Audit Committee must pre-approve, to the extent required by applicable law, all audit services and permissible non-audit services provided by our independent registered public accounting firm, except for any de minimis non-audit services. All of the fees reflected below were approved by our Audit Committee.

**FEE DISCLOSURE**

The following table lists the fees for services rendered by BDO, our independent registered public accounting firm for the years ended December 31, 2019 and 2018:

Fee Category	2019	2018
Audit Fees	\$ 597,000	\$ 500,000
Audit-Related Fees	—	—
Tax Fees	—	—
All Other Fees	—	—
Total Fees	<u>\$ 597,000</u>	<u>\$ 500,000</u>

**Audit Fees**

“Audit Fees” relate to fees and expenses billed by BDO for the annual audit, including the audit of our financial statements, review of our quarterly financial statements and for comfort letters and consents related to stock issuances and other corporate transactions. Fees for the year ended December 31, 2019 includes \$92,000 for the audit related services performed in connection with the filing of a registration statement.

**Audit-Related Fees**

“Audit-Related Fees” consist of fees and expenses for assurance and related services that are reasonably related to the performance of the audit or review of our financial statements that are not “Audit Fees.”

**Tax Fees**

“Tax Fees” consist of fees and related expenses billed for professional services for tax compliance, tax advice and tax planning. These services include assistance regarding federal and state tax compliance and tax planning and structuring.

**All Other Fees**

“All Other Fees” consist of fees and expenses for products and services that are not “Audit Fees,” “Audit-Related Fees” or “Tax Fees.”



## AUDIT COMMITTEE REPORT

The Audit Committee reports to and acts on behalf of our Board of Directors by providing oversight of our financial management, independent auditor and financial reporting controls and accounting policies and procedures. Our management is responsible for preparing our financial statements and systems of internal control, and the independent auditor is responsible for auditing those financial statements and expressing its opinion as to whether the financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, our financial position, results of operations and cash flows in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles and internal controls over financial reporting. The Audit Committee is responsible for overseeing the conduct of these activities by our management and the independent auditor.

In this context, the Audit Committee has:

- Met and held discussions with management and the independent auditor. Management represented to the Audit Committee that our financial statements as of and for the year ended December 31, 2019 were prepared in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles, and the Audit Committee has reviewed and discussed the quality, not just the acceptability, of the accounting principles, the reasonableness of significant judgments and the clarity of disclosures included in our financial statements with management and the independent auditor.
- Discussed with the independent auditor matters required to be discussed by the applicable Auditing Standards as periodically amended (including significant accounting policies, alternative accounting treatments and estimates, judgments and uncertainties).
- Received the written disclosures and the letter from the independent auditor required by the applicable requirements of the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board regarding the independent auditor's communications with the Audit Committee concerning independence, and the Audit Committee and the independent auditor have discussed the auditor's independence from the Company and our management, including the matters in those written disclosures.
- Discussed with our independent auditors, with and without management present, their evaluations of our internal accounting controls and the overall quality of our financial reporting.

The members of the Audit Committee are not currently professionally engaged in the practice of auditing or accounting and as such, cannot be considered experts in the field of auditing or accounting, including with respect to auditor independence. Members of the Audit Committee rely, without independent verification, on the information provided to them and on the representations made by management and BDO. Accordingly, the Audit Committee's oversight does not provide an independent basis to determine that management has maintained appropriate accounting and financial reporting principles or appropriate internal controls over financial reporting and procedures designed to assure compliance with accounting standards and applicable laws and regulations. Furthermore, our considerations and discussions referred to above do not assure that (i) the audit of our financial statements has been carried out in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards, (ii) our financial statements are presented in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles or (iii) BDO is, in fact, "independent."

Based upon these reviews and discussions, the Audit Committee recommended to the Board of Directors that our audited financial statements be included in our 2019 Annual Report for filing with the SEC.

*By the Audit Committee:*  
Frank P. Filippis, Chair  
W Coleman Bitting  
Paula Morabito

## EXECUTIVE OFFICERS

The following sets forth certain information with respect to our named executive officers:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Age</u>	<u>Position</u>
Robert E. Cauley	61	Chief Executive Officer, President and Chairman of the Board
George H. Haas, IV	43	Chief Financial Officer, Chief Investment Officer, Secretary and Director

Biographical information on Mr. Cauley and Mr. Haas is provided above.

## COMPENSATION DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS

Our Compensation Discussion and Analysis describes our compensation program, objectives and policies for the executive officers named in this proxy statement and our executive officers generally.

### **Overview of Compensation Program and Philosophy**

We have no employees. We are externally managed by our Manager pursuant to a management agreement between our Manager and us. Our executive officers and other key professionals are employees of our Manager, which we refer to as our Manager's employees, and, except as described below, are compensated by Bimini for their services to us. We reimburse our Manager for our allocable share of the compensation of our Chief Financial Officer, including, without limitation, annual base salary, any related withholding taxes and employee benefits based on the percentage of time spent on our affairs. We also make awards under the 2012 Plan from time to time. Our management agreement provides that our Manager will provide us with a management team, including our Chief Executive Officer, Chief Financial Officer and Chief Investment Officer or similar positions. Each of our officers are employees of Bimini. The Compensation Committee of Bimini's Board of Directors will determine the levels of base salary and cash incentive compensation that may be earned by our officers based on factors as Bimini may determine are appropriate. Bimini will also determine whether and to what extent our officers will be provided with pension, long-term or deferred compensation and other employee benefits plans and programs. We expect that Bimini will use proceeds from the management agreement and overhead sharing agreement in part to pay compensation to its officers and employees.

### **CEO Pay Ratio**

The Company does not have any employees and does not provide any compensation to the CEO. As a result, the pay ratio disclosure of the median of the annual total compensation of all Company employees excluding the CEO and the annual total compensation of the CEO is not applicable.

### **Compensation Committee Consideration of the 2017 Advisory Vote of our Stockholders on Executive Compensation**

At our 2017 annual meeting of stockholders, we provided our stockholders with the opportunity to cast an advisory vote on executive compensation. Over 76% of the votes cast (i.e., excluding abstentions and broker non-votes) on the 2017 Say-on-Pay vote were voted in favor of the proposal. We have considered the results of the 2017 vote and believe the support of our stockholders for that proposal indicates that our stockholders are supportive of our approach to executive compensation. Thus, we did not make changes to our executive compensation arrangements in response to the vote. In the future, we will continue to consider the outcome of our Say-on-Pay votes when making compensation decisions regarding our named executive officers.

### **Compensation Philosophy**

We seek superior risk-adjusted returns for our stockholders relative to other returns available to fixed income and equity investors. We are willing to accept lesser returns in order to mitigate the volatility and possible loss of stockholders' equity. Our compensation program seeks to:

- reward superior performance relative to peer group performance;
- emphasize consistent performance relative to market-driven interest rates;
- promote book value preservation;
- reduce peer-influenced, risk-taking incentives; and
- evaluate such performance over time frames as long as five years.

### **Cash and Other Compensation**

Our named executive officers and other personnel who conduct our regular business are employees of our Manager. Accordingly, we do not pay or accrue any salaries to our officers. However, we may elect to pay cash incentive awards to our officers in the future.

### **Equity-Based Compensation**

As with our non-employee directors, our Compensation Committee may, from time to time, grant equity awards in the form of options, stock awards, stock appreciation rights, Performance Units (as defined below), incentive awards or other equity-based awards to the employees of our Manager pursuant to the 2012 Plan. Certain of the Manager's employees also serve as our officers as described in this proxy statement. We expect these awards to be designed to align the interests of the employees of our Manager with those of our stockholders by allowing the employees of our Manager to share in the creation of value for our stockholders through stock appreciation and dividends. We expect these equity awards generally to be subject to vesting requirements over a number of years, and designed to promote the retention of employees and executives of our Manager and to achieve strong performance for our company. These awards will further provide flexibility to us in our ability to enable our Manager to attract, motivate and retain talented individuals at our Manager.

We believe our compensation policies are particularly appropriate since we are an externally managed REIT. To qualify as a REIT for federal income tax purposes, regulations require us to distribute to our stockholders each calendar year at least 90% of our REIT taxable income (including certain items of non-cash income), determined without regard to the deduction for dividends paid and excluding net capital gain. As a result, we believe that our stockholders are principally interested in receiving attractive risk-adjusted dividends and stability in book value. Accordingly, we want to provide an incentive to our directors and the employees of our Manager that rewards success in achieving these goals. We believe that equity-based awards are consistent with our stockholders' interest in book value stability, as these individuals will be incentivized to protect book value for stockholders over time. We believe that this alignment of interests provides an incentive to our Manager's employees to implement strategies that will enhance our long-term performance and promote growth in dividends while preserving book value.

### **Performance Awards**

The Compensation Committee may also grant performance awards, which may be granted either alone or in addition to other awards. Performance awards may be stock-based awards or cash-based awards ("Performance Units"). The performance criteria that apply to performance awards and the period on which performance is measured (the "Performance Period") shall be determined by the Compensation Committee. Dividend equivalent rights may be granted in conjunction with a performance award. Dividend equivalents will be subject to the same vesting requirements as the performance award and will be accumulated and paid after, and only to the extent that, the performance objectives for the performance award are achieved. At the conclusion of the Performance Period, which may not be shorter than twelve months, the Compensation Committee shall evaluate the degree to which any applicable performance goals have been achieved and the performance awards earned and shall cause to be delivered the amount earned in either cash, shares, other property, or any combination thereof, in the sole discretion of the Compensation Committee at the time of payment.

### **Pension Benefits**

We do not provide any of our named executive officers with pension benefits.

### **Nonqualified Deferred Compensation**

We do not provide any of our named executive officers with any nonqualified deferred compensation plans.

### **Potential Payments Upon Termination Of Employment**

We do not have any employment agreements with any of our named executive officers and are not obligated to make any payments to them upon termination of employment.

## Potential Post-Employment Payments and Payments on a Change in Control

None of our named executive officers has the right to terminate employment and receive severance payments from us, and we are not required to make payments to an executive officer upon a change of control of the Company. However, all Performance Units granted pursuant to the 2019 Plan (as defined below) vest immediately upon a change of control if the recipient of such Performance Units is still serving as an executive officer of the Company at the time of such change of control. The value of such Performance Units as of December 31, 2019 was approximately \$88,524.

## Compensation Policies and Practices as They Relate to Risk Management

We pay our Manager a management fee that is a percentage of our stockholders' equity, as defined in the management agreement. This management fee is not tied to our performance and, as a result, we believe this management fee is not reasonably likely to have a material adverse effect on us. We have designed the incentives related to award grants to employees of our Manager under the 2012 Plan, as such policies and practices relate to or affect risk taking by our Manager on our behalf, in a manner that we believe will not cause our Manager to seek to make higher risk investments. This is largely because potential awards under the 2012 Plan payable to employees of our Manager avoid placing undue emphasis on the maximization of net income at the expense of other criteria, such as preservation of capital, to achieve higher awards. We have designed our award criteria related to the 2012 Plan in an effort to provide the proper incentives to our Manager's employees to maximize our performance in order to serve the best interests of our stockholders. Our Board of Directors and the Compensation Committee monitors our award criteria related to the 2012 Plan to determine whether its risk management objectives are being met with respect to incentivizing our Manager's employees.

## 2019 Long-Term Equity Incentive Compensation Plan

During March 2019, we adopted the 2019 Long-Term Equity Incentive Compensation Plan (the "2019 Plan"). The Compensation Committee adopted the 2019 Plan to continue its implementation of our compensation philosophy, several factors of which are described in more detail below.

- *Superior Performance Relative to Peer Group Performance.* The Compensation Committee determines a potential performance bonus based on our financial performance compared to the financial performance of the Peer Group (as hereinafter defined).
- *Consistent Performance Relative to Market-Driven Interest Rates.* Returns we can earn are, to a certain extent, correlated with the interest rate on the current-coupon Agency RMBS (the "Agency RMBS rate"). The Compensation Committee determines a potential performance bonus based on our financial performance compared with the Agency RMBS rate. Setting such a market-driven benchmark creates incentives to achieve attractive financial performance without exposing us to inappropriate risk taking such as might be encouraged by:
  - low absolute interest rates;
  - a small difference between the Agency RMBS rate and the comparable duration U.S. Treasury obligations; or
  - excess emphasis on peer-relative performance.
- *Book Value Preservation.* One of the most significant performance factors for any Agency RMBS REIT is an event of book value impairment, which occurs when market dislocations force asset sales and the realization of significant losses of stockholders' equity. Such events have occurred in the past when interest rates rose sharply, the capital markets faced significant liquidity challenges or when the Federal Reserve changed monetary policy unexpectedly. We seek to minimize the impact of these events, and make this success a significant element of differentiation from our peers. The Compensation Committee determines a potential performance bonus based on our book value performance compared with the book value performance of our Peer Group. Because book value performance is part of the calculation of financial performance for us and our Peer Group, we believe that the addition of a potential performance bonus focused specifically on book value performance adds emphasis to our focus on book value. Additionally, the performance of unvested equity-based compensation awards will be adversely affected by events of book value impairment and positively affected by events of extraordinary book value preservation.
- *Peer-Influenced, Risk-Taking Incentives.* One of the easiest ways to increase returns is to take extra risk, whether owning longer duration assets, using more leverage or reducing hedge coverage. In our opinion, one unintended consequence of peer-relative incentive compensation programs is that they encourage peer-relative risk taking. Further, if several of our peers also focus on peer-relative performance, there is a perverse incentive among these companies to continually add risk to improve relative performance. We seek to avoid participating in a "risk-taking arms race" relative to our Peer Group. The Compensation Committee sets the relative sizes of the three distinct potential performance bonuses in order to limit the influence of the risk-taking strategies adopted by our Peer Group.
- *Time Frames as long as Five Years.* We evaluate our performance over one-, three- and five-year time frames, evaluating our performance compared with benchmarks established at the beginning of each period. In our opinion, a focus on longer-time frames creates a level of continuity in strategy implementation that could be disrupted by focusing on maximizing a sequence of single year returns. The longer time frames are more likely to capture periods when successful risk-avoidance is material to our financial performance, a feature which aligns this choice with our emphasis on risk management and book value preservation. The Compensation Committee uses larger performance bonuses for strong performance generated over the three- and five-year time frames.

All employees of the Manager, and employees of entities affiliated with the Manager were eligible to participate in the 2019 Plan. Members of our Manager's and its affiliates' senior management team also served as the Company's executive officers, including the Company's Chief Executive Officer and Chief Financial Officer. These employees are referred to as "Participants." Being a Participant does not entitle the individual to an award under the 2019 Plan. The Compensation Committee has absolute sole discretion over all aspects of the 2019 Plan, including the ability to reduce the amount of any bonus award or the size of the bonus pool even if the performance objectives and other terms of the 2019 Plan were satisfied.

Participants are eligible to earn awards under the 2019 Plan for performance over the next one year, three year and five year periods. A bonus pool was established under the 2019 Plan for each of the one, three and five year measurement periods. The amount credited to the bonus pool is based on the Company's performance under each of the three performance measures of the 2019 Plan for each of the three measurement periods. The Compensation Committee, in its discretion, determined each Participant's award (i.e., the percentage of the bonus pool paid to each Participant).

The maximum amount that may be credited to the bonus pool for each measurement period equaled the average management fees paid by the Company to the Manager (pursuant to the terms of the management agreement between the Company and the Manager) for such period multiplied by the applicable percentage described in the table below. Under the 2019 Plan, the maximum bonus pool for awards to be issued for performance during (i) the one-year measurement period equaled 20% of the management fees paid for 2019, (ii) the three-year measurement period will equal 35% of the average management fees (calculated on an annual basis) paid for 2019 through 2021 and (iii) the five-year measurement period will equal 45% of the average management fees (calculated on an annual basis) paid for 2019 through 2023.

As noted above, the amount credited to the bonus pool for each measurement period reflects the Company's performance measured against three criteria (which are described below). The table below illustrates the maximum amount that could be credited to the bonus pool for each measurement period (as a percentage of the average management fees for the applicable period). The table also shows the amount that could be credited to the bonus pool for each measurement period (also as a percentage of the average management fees for the applicable period) for achievement of objectives with respect to each of the performance criteria. For example, the maximum amount that could be credited to the bonus pool for the three-year measurement period based on Agency RMBS rate relative performance (as defined below) is 10.50% of the average management fees paid for 2019 through 2021.

	1-year	3-year	5-year
Peer-relative financial performance	9.00%	15.75%	20.25%
Agency RMBS rate relative performance	6.00%	10.50%	13.50%
Peer-relative book value performance	5.00%	8.75%	11.25%
Total Measurement Period	20.00%	35.00%	45.00%

The Compensation Committee established the following performance measures and the performance thresholds that must be satisfied for awards to be earned under the 2019 Plan.

**Peer-Relative Financial Performance.** No amount is earned for this performance measure unless the Company's financial performance for the applicable measurement period exceeds the mean of the financial performance of the companies in the Peer Group (defined below) for the applicable measurement period. The financial performance of the Company and those in the Peer Group equals the sum of total dividends paid during the measurement period and the change in book value during the measurement period divided by the book value on the first day of the applicable measurement period. The companies in the "Peer Group" consist of AGNC Investment Corp., Annaly Capital Management Inc., Anworth Mortgage Asset Corporation, Arlington Asset Investment Corp., ARMOUR Residential REIT, Inc., Capstead Mortgage Corporation, Cherry Hill Mortgage Investment Corporation, and Dynex Capital, Inc.

**Agency RMBS Rate Relative Performance.** The Company's performance under this performance measure equaled the percentage determined by dividing the sum of the change in book value per share during the applicable measurement period and total dividends paid per share during the measurement period by the book value per share on the first day of such measurement period. No amount is earned for this performance measure unless the Company's performance, as calculated in the preceding sentence for the applicable measurement period, exceeds the Agency RMBS rate of 3.483% on January 1, 2019 plus 400 bps, or 7.483%, multiplied by the number of years in the measurement period.

**Peer-Relative Book Value Performance.** No amount will be earned for this performance measure unless the Company's change in book value for the applicable measurement period (calculated in accordance with the following sentence) exceeds the mean change in book value for the companies in the Peer Group. The change in book value for the Company and those in the Peer Group will be determined by subtracting the book value on the first day of the measurement period from the book value on the last day in the measurement period, with such amount divided by the book value on the first day of the measurement period.

If the Company's results for a performance measure equal or are less than the threshold for a measurement period, no amount will be added to the bonus pool for the measurement period with respect to that measurement criteria. The table below details the amounts by which the Company's performance must exceed the threshold performance measures described above for the maximum bonus award to be added to the bonus pool. Linear interpolation will be used for results falling between the threshold and the result that must be achieved to earn the maximum award.

	1-year	3-year	5-year
Peer-relative financial performance	Threshold + 5.0%	Threshold + 10.0%	Threshold + 15.0%
Agency RMBS rate relative performance	Threshold + 5.0%	Threshold + 10.0%	Threshold + 15.0%
Peer-relative book value performance	Threshold + 2.0%	Threshold + 4.0%	Threshold + 6.0%

The Committee anticipates that 50% of earned bonuses will be paid in unrestricted shares of the Company's common stock and 50% will be paid in the form of Performance Units, all of which will be issued under the 2012 Plan. The number of unrestricted shares of the Company's common stock and Performance Units to be issued in satisfaction of the earned bonuses will be determined by dividing the amount of such bonus by the average closing price of the Company's common stock on the NYSE for the 10 trading days preceding the grant date of the common stock and Performance Units rounded to the nearest whole number. The Performance Units will vest at the rate of 10% per quarter commencing with the first quarter after the one year anniversary of the end of the applicable measurement period, with the Participant receiving one share of the Company's common stock for each Performance Unit that vests. The Participant must continue to be employed by the Company as of the end of each such quarter in order to vest in the number of Performance Units scheduled to vest on that date. In the event of a Change in Control (as defined in the 2012 Plan) or the death or disability of the Participant, all of his or her Performance Units will be vested. When vested, each Performance Unit will be settled by the issuance of one share of the Company's common stock, at which time the Performance Unit shall be cancelled immediately, but in no case later than March 30 of the year after the year in which the Performance Units vest.

The Performance Units will contain dividend equivalent rights which entitle the Participants to receive distributions declared by the Company on common stock. One Performance Unit is equivalent to one share of common stock for purposes of the dividend equivalent rights. Other than dividend equivalent rights, the Performance Units do not entitle the Participants to any of the rights of a stockholder of the Company.

The number of outstanding Performance Units will be subject to the following adjustments prior to the date on which such Performance Unit vests:

**Book Value Impairment.** A “Book Value Impairment” will occur if over any two consecutive quarters the following conditions are satisfied: (i) the Company’s book value per share declines by 15% or more during the first of such two quarters and (ii) the Company’s book value per share decline from the beginning of such two quarters to the end of such two quarters is at least 10%. If a Book Value Impairment occurs, then the number of Performance Units that are outstanding as of the last day of such two quarter period shall be reduced by 15%.

**Extraordinary Book Value Preservation.** “Extraordinary Book Value Preservation” will occur in any quarter in which the following conditions are satisfied: (i) the median change in the book value per share of specified peer companies (the “Median Book Value Decline”) is a decline of 6% or more and (ii) the Company’s book value per share either (a) increases or (b) declines by a percentage that is less than 50% of the Median Book Value Decline. If an event of Extraordinary Book Value Preservation occurs, then the number of Performance Units that are outstanding as of the last day of the quarter in which the Extraordinary Book Value Preservation has occurred will be increased by 5 basis points for every 1 basis point of difference between the Company’s book value per share percentage change and the Median Book Value Decline during such quarter.

**Outperform All Peer Companies.** The Company will “Outperform All Peer Companies” in any quarter in which the following conditions are satisfied: (i) the specified peer companies all experience a decline in book value per share and (ii) the Company’s book value per share either (a) increases or (b) declines by an amount that is less than the decline experienced by each peer company. If the Company Outperforms All Peer Companies in any quarter, then the number of Performance Units that are outstanding as of the last day of such quarter shall increase by 10%.

The Compensation Committee anticipates adopting similar plans for future years with modifications to the performance measures and hurdle rates adjusted as the Compensation Committee deems appropriate.

The Compensation Committee designated the following REITs (collectively, the “Peer Group”) for purposes of the financial performance benchmarks. The Compensation Committee believes investors evaluate us in the context of our performance relative to other mortgage REITs with similar investment strategies. We consider these companies to be the most relevant for purposes of benchmarking our financial performance and our primary competitors for both capital and executive talent.

AGNC Investment Corp. (AGNC)  
Annaly Capital Management Inc. (NLY)\*†  
Anworth Mortgage Asset Corporation (ANH)\*  
Arlington Asset Investment Corp. (AI)  
ARMOUR Residential REIT, Inc. (ARR)\*  
Capstead Mortgage Corp. (CMO)  
Cherry Hill Mortgage Investment Corp. (CHMI)\*  
Dynex Capital, Inc. (DX)

\* Externally managed

† Announced that they intend to complete a transaction to internalize management in the second quarter of 2020.

#### **2019 Long-Term Equity-Based Incentive Awards**

We did not make any equity awards to Mr. Cauley and Mr. Haas for their service to us during 2019.

#### **Summary Compensation Table**

The following table sets forth the information required by Item 402 of Regulation S-K promulgated by the SEC. The amounts shown represent the compensation paid to the named executive officers as consideration for services rendered the Company. With respect to equity incentive awards, the dollar amounts indicated in the table under “Stock Awards” are the aggregate grant date fair value of awards computed in accordance with FASB ASC Topic 718.



**Summary Compensation Table\***

Name	Year	Bonus	Stock Awards <sup>(1)</sup>	Total
Robert E. Cauley President and Chief Executive Officer	2019	\$ —	\$ —	\$ —
	2018	—	—	—
	2017	—	170,996	170,996
George H. Haas, IV Chief Financial Officer	2019	\$ —	\$ —	\$ —
	2018	—	—	—
	2017	—	139,902	139,902

\* Columns for "Salary," "Option Awards," "Non-Equity Incentive Plan Compensation," "Changes in Pension Value and Nonqualified Compensation Earnings" and "All Other Compensation" have been omitted because they were not applicable in any of the last three fiscal years.

(1) Amounts represent the grant date fair value of stock awards computed in accordance with FASB ASC Topic 718.

Based on the application of our compensation principles and our 2019 Plan and 2012 Plan to the Company's 2019 results, consideration of the Company's performance and the individual performance of the named executive officers, and the other relevant factors described in the Compensation Discussion and Analysis, the Compensation Committee did not make any incentive based compensation awards for performance in 2019.

***Compensation Paid by our Manager to our Named Executive Officers in 2019***

We did not pay any compensation to our named executive officers during the year ended December 31, 2019. The compensation that we reimbursed to our Manager for our allocable share of the compensation of our Chief Financial Officer is set forth below - see "Certain Relationships and Related Party Transactions – Management Agreement."

Messrs. Cauley and Haas also serve as the executive officers of Bimini, which is a public company that files its Exchange Act reports with the SEC. Our Manager is a wholly-owned subsidiary of Bimini. Bimini's compensation committee sets the compensation of Messrs. Cauley and Haas on an annual basis. See Bimini's proxy statement for its 2020 annual stockholders meeting for a description of Messrs. Cauley's and Haas' compensation paid by Bimini and Bimini's compensation philosophy. The Company does not have any input into how Bimini's compensation committee determines the compensation paid to Messrs. Cauley and Haas. Bimini's compensation of Messrs. Cauley and Haas is tied to various performance metrics of Bimini Capital and its varied operations – principally the management of its own RMBS portfolio and acting as the external manager of the Company via a subsidiary.

For the fiscal year ended December 31, 2019, our Manager has informed us that 26%, or approximately \$1.8 million, of the management fee paid by the Company to the Manager would have been allocable to named executive officer compensation based on the percentage of net revenues allocable to the asset management segment of its operations, as reported by the Manager in the notes to its financial statements included in its Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2019. Of this compensation, our Manager has informed us that approximately 59% was fixed and 41% was variable or incentive pay. Our Manager and its affiliates do not use a specific formula to calculate the variable or incentive pay portion of our named executive officers' compensation. Additionally, our Manager and its affiliates do not explicitly set future variable or incentive compensation on the basis of the compensation the named executive officers earned in prior years. Generally, in determining each executive's variable or incentive pay, our Manager has informed us that its Compensation Committee takes into account factors such as the individual's position, his or her contribution to the Manager, market practices, and the recommendations of our Compensation Committee. We did not, nor did our Manager or its affiliates, retain a compensation consultant in connection with the compensation of our named executive officers in 2019.

### Grants of Plan Based Awards\*

Name	Grant Date	Approval Date	Estimated Future Payouts of Shares or Units of Stock Under Equity Incentive Plan Awards (#)	All Other Stock Awards: Number of Shares or Units of Stock (#)(3)	Grant Date Fair Value of Stock and Option Awards \$(4)
Robert E. Cauley	April 10, 2018 (1)	April 6, 2018	11,476	—	\$ 85,496
	April 10, 2018 (2)	April 6, 2018	—	11,476	85,496
George H. Haas, IV	April 10, 2018 (1)	April 6, 2018	9,389	—	69,948
	April 10, 2018 (2)	April 6, 2018	—	9,389	69,948

\* Columns for "Estimated future payouts under Non-Equity Incentive Plan Awards," "All Other Option Awards" and "Exercise or Base Price of Option Awards" have been omitted because they were not applicable.

- (1) In April 2018, Performance Units were issued under the 2012 Plan in respect to 2017 service to our Company. The Performance Units are earned at the rate of 10% per quarter commencing with the quarter ending March 31, 2019 and concluding with the quarter ending June 30, 2021. The grantee must continue to serve as our executive officer as of the end of each such quarter in order to receive the number of Performance Units that may be earned on that date. In the event of a Change In Control (as defined in the 2012 Plan) or the death or disability of a grantee, all of his Performance Units will be earned. When earned, each Performance Unit will be settled by the issuance of one share of our common stock, at which time the Performance Unit will be cancelled. The Performance Units contain dividend equivalent rights which entitle the participants to receive distributions declared by us on our common stock. One Performance Unit is equivalent to one share of our common stock for purposes of the dividend equivalent rights. Other than dividend equivalent rights, the Performance Units do not entitle the participants to any of the rights of our stockholders. The number of outstanding Performance Units is subject to adjustments regarding (a) book value impairment, (b) extraordinary book value preservation, and (c) performance relative to our Peer Group. There were no Performance Units issued in 2019.
- (2) In April 2018 immediately vested common stock was awarded in respect of 2017 service to our Company. There were no immediately vested common stock awarded in 2019.
- (3) The officers each opted to receive a lower number of shares so that each would satisfy his tax withholding obligations in connection with the stock. The net total shares issued were 14,242 after withholding 6,623 shares.
- (4) Amount represents the aggregate grant date fair value based on the closing market price of our common stock on April 5, 2018.

### Outstanding Equity Awards at Fiscal Year-End

The following table reflects our outstanding equity awards as of December 31, 2019:

Name	Number of Shares or Units of Stock That Have Not Vested <sup>(1)</sup>	Market Value of Shares or Units of Stock That Have Not Vested <sup>(1)</sup>
Robert E. Cauley	8,268.1	\$ 48,368
George H. Haas, IV	6,864.3	\$ 40,156

\* Columns related to option awards have been omitted because they were not applicable.

- (1) Amounts represent the number of unvested Performance Units granted on March 15, 2017 and April 6, 2018, and their related December 31, 2019 market value assuming related "threshold" performance levels as set forth in each award achieved.

### 2020 Long-Term Equity Incentive Compensation Plan

In March 2020, the Compensation Committee and the Board adopted the 2020 Long-Term Equity Incentive Compensation Plan, which maintained the same structure as the 2019 Plan.

## COMPENSATION COMMITTEE REPORT

The Compensation Committee of the Company has reviewed and discussed the Compensation Discussion and Analysis required by Item 402(b) of Regulation S-K with management and, based on such review and discussions, the Compensation Committee recommended to the Board that the Compensation Discussion and Analysis be included in this proxy statement.

*By the Compensation Committee:*  
W Coleman Bitting, Chair  
Frank P. Filippis  
Ava L. Parker

**PROPOSAL 3: TO APPROVE, BY A NON-BINDING VOTE, THE COMPANY'S EXECUTIVE COMPENSATION**

We are asking our stockholders to provide a non-binding "say-on-pay" advisory approval of the compensation of our named executive officers as disclosed in the "Compensation Discussion and Analysis" section of this proxy statement.

**THE BOARD RECOMMENDS A VOTE FOR  
THE FOLLOWING RESOLUTION REGARDING THE "SAY-ON-PAY"  
VOTE APPROVING THE OVERALL COMPENSATION PHILOSOPHY**

**RESOLVED**, that stockholders approve, on an advisory basis, compensation of the named executive officers, as described in the proxy statement, including the Compensation Discussion and Analysis, the Summary Compensation Table and the other related tables and disclosures.

Our Board of Directors is committed to corporate governance best practices and recognizes the significant interest of stockholders in executive compensation matters. We are providing this advisory vote as required pursuant to Section 14A of the Exchange Act. The stockholder vote will not be binding on us or the Board of Directors, and it will not be construed as overruling any decision by us or the Board of Directors or creating or implying any change to, or additional, fiduciary duties for us or the Board of Directors.

As discussed in the Compensation Discussion and Analysis section of this proxy statement, we are externally managed by the Manager, pursuant to the management agreement between our Manager and us. In 2019, we did not have any employees that we compensated directly with salaries or other cash compensation. Our named executive officers are employees of Bimini. Our named executive officers' compensation was paid by Bimini, the parent of our Manager, out of its earnings, the management fees we pay to our Manager, and any expense reimbursements we pay our Manager. We do grant our named executive officers performance based bonuses from time to time, but did not make any awards for 2019 and 2018. We do not provide our named executive officers with pension benefits, termination payments or other incidental payments.

As discussed in the Compensation Discussion and Analysis section of this proxy statement, our Board of Directors believes that our compensation program is directly linked to our principal business objective of generating income for our stockholders. For example:

- our Compensation Committee may grant employees of our Manager equity awards intended to align their interests with those of our stockholders by allowing our named executive officers to share in the creation of value for our stockholders through stock appreciation and dividends.
- these equity awards are generally subject to vesting requirements over a number of years, and are designed to promote the retention of management and to achieve strong performance for our company.
- these awards further provide flexibility to us in our ability to enable our Manager to attract, motivate and retain talented individuals.

For these reasons, the Board of Directors recommends that stockholders vote in favor of the proposed resolution. While this vote is not binding on us, it will provide information to our Compensation Committee and our management regarding investor sentiment about our executive compensation philosophy, policies and practices. We will consider this information as appropriate when making decisions regarding executive compensation.

**PROPOSAL 4: TO APPROVE, BY A NON-BINDING VOTE, THE FREQUENCY OF FUTURE STOCKHOLDER ADVISORY VOTES ABOUT OUR EXECUTIVE COMPENSATION**

In addition to the advisory approval of our executive compensation program, we are also seeking a non-binding determination from our stockholders as to the frequency with which stockholders would have an opportunity to provide an advisory approval of our executive compensation program. The option (every one, two or three years) receiving the greatest number of “for” votes will be considered the frequency recommended by stockholders. We are providing this advisory vote as required pursuant to Section 14A of the Exchange Act. The stockholder vote will not be binding on us or the Board of Directors, and it will not be construed as overruling any decision by us or the Board of Directors or creating or implying any change to, or additional, fiduciary duties for us or the Board of Directors.

**THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS RECOMMENDS A VOTE FOR  
“EVERY ONE YEAR” FOR THE FREQUENCY OF  
ADVISORY VOTES ON EXECUTIVE COMPENSATION.**

Our executive compensation program is designed to support long-term value creation and pays awards for performance for one, three and five year periods under incentive compensation plans adopted each year. The management fees we pay our Manager are applied towards the payment of compensation to our named executive officers.

Our Board of Directors has determined that having an advisory vote on executive compensation each year is the most appropriate policy for us at this time and recommends that you vote to have future advisory executive compensation votes each year for the following reasons:

- an annual vote would give the Board of Directors and the Compensation Committee clear and timely feedback regarding executive compensation in light of management’s most current performance;
- the primary focus of executive compensation disclosure in our proxy statement is compensation granted in or for the prior fiscal year; and
- the Compensation Committee evaluates the compensation of our executive officers on an annual basis. Thus, an annual advisory vote on executive compensation would align stockholder feedback with this evaluation.

The Say-on-Frequency vote is non-binding; however, the Board of Directors and Compensation Committee will take the results of the vote into consideration when determining the appropriate frequency for future Say-on-Pay votes.

## EQUITY COMPENSATION PLAN

In October 2012, our Board of Directors adopted and Bimini, then our sole stockholder, approved, the 2012 Plan. The 2012 Plan provides for the award of stock options, stock appreciation rights, stock awards, Performance Units, other equity-based awards (and dividend equivalents with respect to awards of Performance Units and other equity-based awards) and incentive awards. The 2012 Plan is administered by the Compensation Committee of our Board of Directors except that our Board of Directors will administer awards made to directors who are not employees of us or our affiliates. The 2012 Plan provides for awards of up to an aggregate of 10% of the issued and outstanding shares of our common stock (on a fully diluted basis) at the time of the awards, subject to a maximum aggregate 4,000,000 shares of our common stock that may be issued under the 2012 Plan.

The following table provides information as of December 31, 2019 regarding the number of shares of common stock that may be issued under the 2012 Plan.

Plan Category	Total number of securities to be issued upon exercise of outstanding options, warrants and rights (Column a)	Weighted-average exercise price of outstanding options, warrants and rights (Column b)	Number of securities remaining available for future issuance under equity compensation plans (excluding securities reflected in Column (a))
Equity compensation plans approved by security holders	19,021	—	3,729,748
Equity compensation plans not approved by security holders	—	—	—
<b>Total</b>	<b>19,021</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>3,729,748</b>

## SECURITY OWNERSHIP OF MANAGEMENT AND CERTAIN BENEFICIAL OWNERS

The following table sets forth certain information as of April 14, 2020 relating to the beneficial ownership of our common stock by (i) all persons that we know beneficially own more than 5% of our outstanding common stock, (ii) each of our named executive officers and directors, and (iii) all of our executive officers and directors as a group. In accordance with SEC rules, beneficial ownership includes:

- all shares the investor actually owns beneficially or of record;
- all shares over which the investor has or shares voting or dispositive control (such as in the capacity as a general partner of an investment fund); and
- all shares the investor has the right to acquire within 60 days (such as upon exercise of options that are currently vested or which are scheduled to vest within 60 days after April 14, 2020).

Knowledge of the beneficial ownership of our common stock is drawn solely from statements filed with the SEC pursuant to Section 13(d) or 13(g) of the Exchange Act. Except as otherwise indicated, to our knowledge, each stockholder listed below has sole voting and investment power with respect to the shares beneficially owned by the stockholder.

Unless otherwise indicated, all shares are owned directly and the indicated person has sole voting and investment power. Except as indicated in the footnotes to the table below, the business address of the stockholders listed below is the address of our principal executive office, 3305 Flamingo Drive, Vero Beach, Florida 32963.

Name of Beneficial Owner	Amount and Nature of Beneficial Ownership	Percent of Class
BlackRock, Inc. <sup>(1)</sup>	5,922,867	8.9%
Vanguard Group, Inc. <sup>(2)</sup>	3,626,909	5.5%
Invesco Ltd. <sup>(3)</sup>	2,248,068	3.4%
Robert E. Cauley <sup>(4)</sup>	104,090	*
George H. Haas, IV	96,122	*
Paula Morabito <sup>(5)</sup>	23,715	*
W Coleman Bitting <sup>(6)</sup>	36,920	*
Frank P. Phillips <sup>(6)</sup>	43,275	*
Ava L. Parker <sup>(5)</sup>	26,047	*
All Directors and Executive Officers as a Group	330,169	*

\* Represents less than 1% of the outstanding common stock.

(1) Information based on a Schedule 13G filed with the SEC on February 5, 2020 by BlackRock, Inc. ("BlackRock"), 55 East 52nd Street, New York, NY 10055. BlackRock has (a) sole voting power over 5,811,615 shares; (b) shared voting power over zero shares; (c) sole dispositive power over 5,922,867 shares; and (d) shared dispositive power over zero shares. BlackRock beneficially owns 5,922,867 shares. This total includes shares on behalf of BlackRock Advisors, LLC, BlackRock Asset Management Canada Limited, BlackRock Fund Advisors, BlackRock Institutional Trust Company, N.A., BlackRock Financial Management, Inc. and BlackRock Investment Management, LLC.

(2) Information based on a Schedule 13G filed with the SEC on February 12, 2020 by Vanguard Group, Inc. ("Vanguard"), 100 Vanguard Blvd., Malvern PA 19355. Vanguard has (a) sole voting power over 51,711 shares; (b) shared voting power over zero shares; (c) sole dispositive power over 3,575,198 shares; and (d) shared dispositive power over 51,711 shares. Vanguard beneficially owns 3,626,909 shares.

(3) Information based on a Schedule 13G filed with the SEC on February 1, 2019 by Invesco Ltd. ("Invesco"), 1555 Peachtree Street NE, Suite 1800, Atlanta, GA 30309. Invesco has (a) sole voting power over 2,248,068 shares; (b) shared voting power over zero shares; (c) sole dispositive power over 2,248,068 shares; and (d) shared dispositive power over zero shares. Invesco beneficially owns 2,248,068 shares.

(4) Includes 250 shares of common stock owned by Mr. Cauley's son. Mr. Cauley disclaims beneficial ownership of these shares.

(5) Includes 17,939 deferred stock units, each representing the right to receive one share of common stock, acquired as quarterly grants under the 2012 Plan, or in lieu of the monthly dividend on the Company's common stock.

(6) Includes 15,976 deferred stock units, each representing the right to receive one share of common stock, acquired as quarterly grants under the 2012 Plan.



**DELINQUENT SECTION 16(a) REPORTS**

Our directors and executive officers are required to file reports of initial ownership and changes in ownership of our securities with the SEC. To our knowledge, based solely on a review of copies of such reports filed with the SEC and written representations that no other reports were required, we believe that all such filing requirements were timely met, except for four Form 4s for each of Ava Parker and Paula Morabito, each an independent director of our Company, in connection with single transactions reporting the issuance of DSUs in lieu of our monthly dividend pursuant to the reporting person's election for each of February 2019, March 2019, May 2019 and June 2019.

## CODE OF BUSINESS CONDUCT AND ETHICS

We have adopted a Code of Business Conduct and Ethics that is applicable to all of our officers, directors and employees, if any. We have also adopted a Code of Ethics for Senior Financial Officers that is applicable to our principal executive officer, principal financial officer, principal accounting officer or controller, or persons performing similar functions. Our Code of Business Conduct and Ethics and our Code of Ethics for Senior Financial Officers may be accessed from the Corporate Governance section of our website at [www.orchidislandcapital.com](http://www.orchidislandcapital.com), and will be made available in print to any stockholder upon written request delivered to our corporate secretary at Orchid Island Capital, Inc., 3305 Flamingo Drive, Vero Beach, Florida 32963. We intend to disclose any waivers from, or amendments to, our Code of Business Conduct and Ethics and our Code of Ethics for Senior Financial Officers required to be disclosed by applicable law or stock exchange listing standards by posting a description of such waiver or amendment on our website at [www.orchidislandcapital.com](http://www.orchidislandcapital.com).

## CERTAIN RELATIONSHIPS AND RELATED TRANSACTIONS

### Management Agreement

We are externally managed and advised by our Manager pursuant to the terms of a management agreement. Our Manager is responsible for administering our business activities and day-to-day operations, subject to the supervision and oversight of our Board of Directors. We pay our Manager a monthly management fee, payable in arrears, and began reimbursing our Manager for certain expenses commencing with the calendar quarter beginning July 1, 2014.

Under the current management agreement, we paid our Manager aggregate management fees of approximately \$5,528,000 for the year ended December 31, 2019 and approximately \$6,204,000 for the year ended December 31, 2018. In addition, during the year ended December 31, 2019, we reimbursed our Manager approximately \$1,380,000, which represents an allocation of overhead expenses, including approximately \$585,000 for the portion of Mr. Haas' salary due to his service to us as our Chief Financial Officer. The term of the management agreement was automatically renewed in accordance with the terms of the agreement on February 20, 2020, and will automatically be renewed for one-year terms thereafter unless we terminate the agreement for cause. Upon the expiration of any automatic renewal term, our Manager may elect not to renew the management agreement without cause, and without penalty, on 180-days' prior written notice to us. Should we terminate the management agreement without cause, we will pay to the Manager a termination fee equal to three times the average annual management fee, as defined in the management agreement, before or on the last day of the term of the management agreement.

### Indemnification Agreements

We have entered into indemnification agreements with each of our directors and executive officers. The indemnification agreements require, among other things, that we indemnify our directors and certain officers to the fullest extent permitted by law and advance to our directors and certain officers all related expenses, subject to reimbursement if it is subsequently determined that indemnification is not permitted.

### Related Person Transaction Policies

Our Board of Directors adopted a policy providing that any investment transaction between Bimini, our Manager or any of their affiliates and us requires the prior approval of a majority of our independent directors.

Our Board of Directors also adopted a policy regarding the approval of any "related person transaction," which is any transaction or series of transactions in which we are to be a participant, the amount involved exceeds \$120,000 and a "related person" (as defined under SEC rules) has a direct or indirect material interest. Under the policy, a related person would need to promptly disclose to the Audit Committee any related person transaction and all material facts about the transaction. The Audit Committee would then assess and promptly communicate that information to our Board of Directors. Based on its consideration of all of the relevant facts and circumstances, the Audit Committee will decide whether or not to approve such transaction and will generally approve only those transactions that do not create a conflict of interest. If we become aware of an existing related person transaction that has not been pre-approved under this policy, the transaction will be referred to the Audit Committee, which will evaluate all options available, including ratification, revision or termination of such transaction. Our policy requires any director who may be interested in a related person transaction to recuse himself or herself from any consideration of such related person transaction.

In fulfilling its responsibility, the Audit Committee will review the relevant facts of each related person transaction or series of related transactions and either approve, ratify or disapprove such transaction or transactions. The Audit Committee will take into account such factors as it deems necessary or appropriate in deciding whether to approve, ratify or disapprove any related person transaction, including any one or more of the following:

- the terms of the transaction;
- the benefits to us of the transaction;
- the availability of other sources for comparable products or services;
- the terms available to unrelated third parties or to employees generally; and
- the impact on a director's independence in the event that such director is a party to the transaction or such director, an immediately family member of such director or an entity in which such director is an executive officer or has a direct or indirect material interest is a party to the transaction.

No director may participate in any consideration or approval of a related person transaction with respect to which such director or any of such director's immediate family members is the related person or has a direct or indirect material interest. Related person transactions will only be approved if they are determined to be in, or not inconsistent with, the best interests of the Company.

On an annual basis, we will solicit information from each of our directors and executive officers to identify related person transactions. If a related person transaction that has not been previously approved or previously ratified is identified, the Audit Committee will promptly consider all of the relevant facts. If the transaction is ongoing, the Audit Committee may ratify or request the rescission, amendment or termination of the related person transaction. If the transaction has been completed, the Audit Committee may seek to rescind the transaction where appropriate and may recommend that our Board of Directors or we take appropriate disciplinary action where warranted. In addition, the Audit Committee will generally review any ongoing related person transactions on an annual basis to determine whether to continue, modify or terminate such related person transactions.

In addition, our Code of Business Conduct and Ethics, which is reviewed and approved by our Board of Directors and provided to all our directors, officers and the persons who provide services to us pursuant to the management agreement, requires that all such persons avoid any situations or relationships that involve actual or potential conflicts of interest, or perceived conflicts of interest, between an individual's personal interests and our interests. Pursuant to our Code of Business Conduct and Ethics, each of these persons must disclose any conflicts of interest, or actions or relationships that might give rise to a conflict, to their supervisor or our secretary. If a conflict is determined to exist, the person must disengage from the conflict situation or terminate his provision of services to us. Our Chief Executive Officer, Chief Financial Officer, principal accounting officer and certain other persons who may be designated by our Board of Directors, whom we collectively refer to as our financial executives, must consult with our Audit Committee with respect to any proposed actions or arrangements that are not clearly consistent with our Code of Business Conduct and Ethics. In the event that a financial executive wishes to engage in a proposed action or arrangement that is not consistent with our Code of Business Conduct and Ethics, the executive must obtain a waiver of the relevant provisions of our Code of Business Conduct and Ethics in advance from our Audit Committee.

## STOCKHOLDER COMMUNICATIONS

Stockholders and other interested parties may communicate with any director, including the Chairman of the Board and the chairman of any committee of the Board or with the non-management directors as a group, by sending a letter to the attention of the appropriate person or persons (which may be marked as confidential) addressed in care of our corporate secretary at Orchid Island Capital, Inc., 3305 Flamingo Drive, Vero Beach, Florida 32963. All communications received by our corporate secretary will be forwarded to the intended recipient(s). Any such communications may be made anonymously.

Concerns relating to accounting, internal controls or auditing matters are immediately brought to the attention of the Chair of the Audit Committee and handled in accordance with procedures approved by the Board of Directors with respect to such matters. A copy of such procedures for the submission and handling of complaints or concerns regarding accounting, internal accounting controls or auditing matters is included in our Code of Business Conduct and Ethics, which is published in the Corporate Governance section of our website at [www.orchidislandcapital.com](http://www.orchidislandcapital.com).

### PROPOSALS OF STOCKHOLDERS

Any stockholder intending to present a proposal at our 2021 annual meeting of stockholders and have the proposal included in the proxy statement for such meeting must, in addition to complying with the applicable laws and regulations governing submissions of such proposals, submit the proposal in writing to us no later than December 22, 2020. To be included in the proxy statement for the 2021 annual meeting, the proposal must comply with the requirements as to form and substance established by the SEC and our bylaws, and must be a proper subject for stockholder action under Maryland law.

Pursuant to our current bylaws, any stockholder intending to nominate a director or present a proposal at an annual meeting of our stockholders without seeking to have such a nomination or proposal included in the proxy statement for such annual meeting, must notify us in writing not less than 120 days nor more than 150 days prior to the first anniversary of the date of the proxy statement for the preceding year's annual meeting. Accordingly, any stockholder who intends to submit such a nomination or proposal at our 2021 annual meeting of stockholders must notify us in writing of such proposal by December 22, 2020, but in no event earlier than November 22, 2020.

Any such nomination or proposal should be sent to Orchid Island Capital, Inc., 3305 Flamingo Drive, Vero Beach, Florida, 32963, Attn: Secretary, and, to the extent applicable, must include the information required by our bylaws and otherwise comply with the requirements established by our bylaws.

### "HOUSEHOLDING" OF PROXY STATEMENT AND ANNUAL REPORT

The SEC rules allow for the delivery of a single copy of the Notice of Annual Meeting of Stockholders or set of proxy materials to any household at which two or more stockholders reside, if it is believed the stockholders are members of the same family. This delivery method, known as "householding," will save us printing and mailing costs. Duplicate account mailings will be eliminated by allowing stockholders to consent to such elimination, or through implied consent, if a stockholder does not request continuation of duplicate mailings. Brokers, dealers, banks or other nominees or fiduciaries that hold shares of our common stock in "street" name for beneficial owners of our common stock and that distribute proxy materials and the Notice of Annual Meeting of Stockholders they receive to beneficial owners may be householding. Depending upon the practices of your broker, bank or other nominee or fiduciary, you may need to contact them directly to discontinue duplicate mailings to your household. If you wish to revoke your consent to householding, you must contact your broker, bank or other nominee or fiduciary.

If you hold shares of our common stock in your own name as a holder of record, householding will not apply to your shares. Also, if you own shares of our common stock in more than one account, such as individually and also jointly with your spouse, you may receive more than one set of our proxy statements and annual reports to stockholders. To assist us in saving money and to provide you with better stockholder services, we encourage registered holders of our stock to have all of your accounts registered in the same name and address. You may do this, or request separate copies in the future, by contacting our transfer agent, Continental Stock Transfer & Trust Company, by telephone at (212) 509-4000 or in writing at 1 State Street, 30th Floor, New York, New York 10004-1561.

If you wish to request extra copies free of charge of any annual report to stockholders or proxy statement, please send your request to Orchid Island Capital, Inc., 3305 Flamingo Drive, Vero Beach, Florida 32963, Attn: Secretary, or contact our Secretary via telephone at (772) 231-1400.

You can also refer to our website at [www.orchidislandcapital.com](http://www.orchidislandcapital.com). Information at, or connected to, our website is not and should not be considered part of this proxy statement.

#### **2019 ANNUAL REPORT**

Our 2019 Annual Report is being mailed to stockholders concurrently with this Proxy Statement. The 2019 Annual Report, however, is not part of the proxy solicitation material. A copy of our 2019 Annual Report as filed with the SEC, which includes our consolidated financial statements for the year ended December 31, 2019, is available on our website at [www.orchidislandcapital.com](http://www.orchidislandcapital.com). You may obtain additional copies of our 2019 Annual Report free of charge by directing your request in writing to our corporate secretary at Orchid Island Capital, Inc., 3305 Flamingo Drive, Vero Beach, Florida 32963.

#### **OTHER MATTERS**

So far as is known, no matters other than those described herein are expected to come before the Annual Meeting. It is intended, however, that the proxies solicited hereby will be voted on any other matters which may properly come before the meeting, or any adjournment or postponement thereof, in the discretion of the person or persons voting such proxies unless the stockholder has indicated on the proxy card that the shares represented thereby are not to be voted on such other matters.

#### **ADJOURNMENTS**

Adjournments may be made for the purpose of, among other things, soliciting additional proxies. Any adjournment may be made from time to time by approval of the holders of a majority of the shares present in person or by proxy at the Annual Meeting (whether or not a quorum exists) without further notice other than by an announcement made at the Annual Meeting. If the Annual Meeting is adjourned or postponed for any reason, all proxies will be voted at the reconvened Annual Meeting in the same manner as such proxies would have been voted at the original convening of the Annual Meeting (except for proxies that have, at that time, effectively been revoked or withdrawn). The Company does not currently intend to seek an adjournment of the Annual Meeting.

Vero Beach, Florida  
April 21, 2020

ORCHID ISLAND CAPITAL, INC.  
 3305 FLAMINGO DR.  
 VERO BEACH, FL 32963

**VOTE BY INTERNET - www.proxyvote.com**

Use the Internet to transmit your voting instructions and for other information. Vote by 11:59 P.M. ET on 06/15/2020. How to access the web site and follow the instructions to use an electronic voting instruction form.

**ELECTRONIC DELIVERY OF FUTURE PROXY**

If you would like to reduce the costs incurred by our company in mailing proxy materials, you can consent to receiving all future proxy statements electronically via e-mail or the Internet. To sign up for the instructions above to vote using the Internet and, if you so desire, agree to receive or access proxy materials electronically.

**VOTE BY PHONE - 1-800-690-6903**

Use any touch-tone telephone to transmit your voting instructions on 06/15/2020. Have your proxy card in hand when you use the touch-tone instructions.

**VOTE BY MAIL**

Mark, sign and date your proxy card and return it in the envelope provided or return it to Vote Processing, c/o Broadridge, 11717.

TO VOTE, MARK BLOCKS BELOW IN BLUE OR BLACK INK AS FOLLOWS:

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**THIS PROXY CARD IS VALID ONLY WHEN SIGNED AND DATED.**  
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The Board of Directors recommends you vote FOR the following:

- To elect as a director the following nominees to serve until the 2021 Annual Meeting of Stockholders and until his or her successor is duly elected and qualified:

Nominees

- 01. Robert E. Cauley
- 02. George H. Haas, IV
- 03. W. Coleman Bitting
- 04. Frank P. Filippis
- 05. Paula Morabito
- 06. Ava L. Parker

	For	Against	Abstain
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

The Board of Directors recommends you vote FOR proposals 2. and 3

- To ratify the appointment of BDO USA, LLP as our independent registered public accounting firm for the year ending December 31, 2020.

3. To approve, by a non-binding vote, our executive compensation

The Board of Directors recommends you vote 1 YEAR on the following proposal:

- To approve, by a non-binding vote, the frequency of future stockholder advisory votes about our executive compensation.

The Board of Directors recommends you vote FOR the following proposal:

- To consider and vote upon such other business as may properly come before the Annual Meeting or any adjournments or postponements.

thereof.

Please indicate if you plan to attend this meeting

Yes

No

Please indicate if you wish to view meeting materials electronically via the Internet rather than receiving a hard copy. Please note that you will continue to receive a proxy card for voting purposes only.

Please sign exactly as your name(s) appear(s) hereon. When signing as attorney, executor, administrator, or other fiduciary, please give full title as such. Joint owners should each sign personally. All holders must sign. If a corporation or partnership, please sign in full corporate or partnership name by authorized officer.

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Signature [PLEASE SIGN WITHIN BOX]

Date

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Signature (Joint Owners)



Admission Ticket

ORCHID ISLAND CAPITAL, INC.  
2020 Annual Meeting of Stockholders  
Tuesday, June 16, 2020  
8:00 AM

Orchid Island Capital, Inc.  
3305 Flamingo Drive  
Vero Beach, Florida 32963

**Important Notice Regarding the Availability of Proxy Materials for the Annual Meeting:** The Proxy Statement and Proxy Card are available at [www.proxyvote.com](http://www.proxyvote.com)

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**ORCHID ISLAND CAPITAL, INC.  
Annual Meeting of Stockholders  
Tuesday, June 16, 2020**

The stockholder(s) hereby appoint(s) Robert E. Cauley and George H. Haas IV, or either of them, each with the power to appoint his substitute, and hereby authorizes them to represent and vote on behalf of the stockholder(s) designated on the reverse side of this ballot, all of the shares of common stock of ORCHID ISLAND CAPITAL, INC. that the stockholder(s) is/are entitled to vote at the Annual Meeting of Stockholders to be held on Tuesday, June 16, 2020, at 3305 Flamingo Dr., Vero Beach, FL 32963, and any adjournment thereof.

**This proxy, when properly executed, will be voted in the manner directed herein. If no direction is made, this proxy will be voted in accordance with the recommendations of the Board of Directors.**

**Continued and to be signed on reverse side**