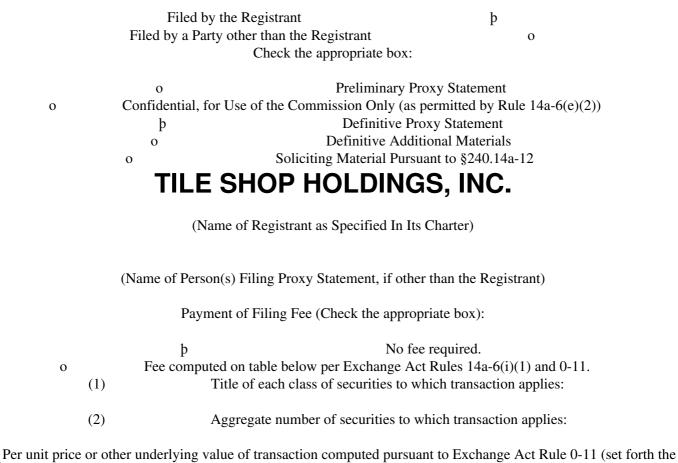
TILE SHOP HOLDINGS, INC. Form DEF 14A June 13, 2013

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

# **SCHEDULE 14A**

# Proxy Statement Pursuant to Section 14(a) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (Amendment No.)



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# TILE SHOP HOLDINGS, INC. 14000 Carlson Parkway Plymouth, Minnesota 55441 Telephone: (763) 852-2901

# NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING OF STOCKHOLDERS To Be Held on July 23, 2013

Dear Stockholder:

You are cordially invited to attend the Annual Meeting of Stockholders (the Annual Meeting ) of Tile Shop Holdings, Inc. (the Company ) on Tuesday, July 23, 2013, at 8:00 a.m. (Central Time) at the offices of Fredrikson & Byron P.A., located at 200 South Sixth Street, Suite 4000, Minneapolis, Minnesota 55402, for the following purposes:

1. To elect as Class I directors to hold office until the 2016 Annual Meeting of Stockholders, the following two nominees recommended by the Board of Directors: Peter J. Jacullo III and Adam L. Suttin.

2. To ratify the appointment of Ernst & Young LLP as the Company s independent registered public accounting firm for the fiscal year ending December 31, 2013.

3.

4.

6. 7. To approve the 2012 Omnibus Award Plan.

To approve the performance goals of the 2012 Omnibus Award Plan.

5. To hold a non-binding advisory vote on named executive officer compensation (a Say-on-Pay vote).

To hold a non-binding advisory vote on the frequency of Say-on-Pay votes.

To conduct any other business properly brought before the meeting.

These items of business are more fully described in the proxy statement accompanying this Notice.

The record date for the Annual Meeting is June 3, 2013. Only stockholders of record at the close of business on that date may vote at the meeting or any adjournment thereof.

By Order of the Board of Directors,

Sincerely,

/s/ Robert A. Rucker

Robert A. Rucker Chief Executive Officer, President and Director

> Plymouth, Minnesota June 13, 2013

You are cordially invited to attend the meeting in person. Whether or not you expect to attend the meeting, please vote your shares. You may vote over the telephone or the Internet as instructed in this proxy statement.

If you received a proxy card or voting instruction card by mail, you may submit your proxy card or voting instruction card by completing, signing, dating and mailing your proxy card or voting instruction card in the envelope provided. Any stockholder attending the meeting may vote in person, even if you already returned a proxy card or voting instruction card or voted by proxy over the telephone or the Internet. Please note, however, that if your shares are held of record by a broker, bank or other nominee and you wish to vote at the meeting, you must obtain a proxy issued in your name from that record holder.

# IMPORTANT NOTICE REGARDING THE AVAILABILITY OF PROXY MATERIALS FOR THE ANNUAL MEETING TO BE HELD ON JULY 23, 2013:

# The Proxy Statement and Fiscal 2012 Annual Report to Stockholders are

# available at https://materials.proxyvote.com/88677Q

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# TILE SHOP HOLDINGS, INC. 14000 Carlson Parkway Plymouth, Minnesota 55441 Telephone: (763) 852-2901

# PROXY STATEMENT FOR THE ANNUAL MEETING OF STOCKHOLDERS TO BE HELD ON JULY 23, 2013

# INFORMATION CONCERNING SOLICITATION AND VOTING

The Board of Directors of Tile Shop Holdings, Inc. (the Company ) is soliciting your proxy to vote at the Annual Meeting of Stockholders (the Annual Meeting ) to be held at the offices of Fredrikson & Byron P.A., located at 200 South Sixth Street, Suite 4000, Minneapolis, Minnesota 55402, on Tuesday, July 23, 2013, at 8:00 a.m. (Central Time), including at any adjournments or postponements of the Annual Meeting. You are invited to attend the Annual Meeting to vote on the proposals described in this proxy statement. However, you do not need to attend the meeting to vote your shares. Instead, you may simply complete, sign and return the enclosed proxy card, if you received paper copies of the proxy materials, or follow the instructions below to submit your proxy over the telephone or the Internet.

In accordance with rules and regulations adopted by the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission (the SEC), we have elected to provide our beneficial owners and stockholders of record access to our proxy materials over the Internet. Beneficial owners are stockholders whose shares are held in the name of a broker, bank or other agent (i.e., in street name). Accordingly, a Notice of Internet Availability of Proxy Materials (the Notice) will be mailed on or about June 13, 2013 to our beneficial owners and stockholders of record who owned our common stock at the close of business on June 3, 2013. Beneficial owners and stockholders of record will have the ability to access the proxy materials on a website referred to in the Notice or request a printed set of the proxy materials be sent to them by following the instructions in the Notice. Beneficial owners and stockholders of record who have previously requested to receive paper copies of our proxy materials will receive paper copies of the proxy materials instead of a Notice.

# QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS ABOUT THIS PROXY MATERIAL AND VOTING

# Why did I receive in the mail a Notice of Internet Availability of Proxy Materials instead of a full set of proxy materials?

We are pleased to take advantage of the SEC rule that allows companies to furnish their proxy materials over the Internet. Accordingly, we have sent to our beneficial owners and stockholders of record a Notice of Internet

Availability of Proxy Materials. Instructions on how to access the proxy materials over the Internet or to request a paper copy may be found in the Notice. Our stockholders may request to receive proxy materials in printed form by mail or electronically on an ongoing basis. A stockholder s election to receive proxy materials by mail or electronically by email will remain in effect until the stockholder terminates its election.

# Why did I receive a full set of proxy materials in the mail instead of a Notice of Internet Availability of Proxy Materials?

We are providing paper copies of the proxy materials instead of a Notice to beneficial owners or stockholders of record who have previously requested to receive paper copies of our proxy materials. If you are a beneficial owner or stockholders of record who received a paper copy of the proxy materials, and you would like to reduce the environmental impact and the costs incurred by us in mailing proxy materials, you may elect to receive all future proxy materials electronically via email or the Internet.

You can choose to receive our future proxy materials electronically by visiting *http://www.proxyvote.com*. Your choice to receive proxy materials electronically will remain in effect until you instruct us otherwise by following the instructions contained in your Notice and visiting *http://www.proxyvote.com*, sending an electronic mail message to sendmaterial@proxyvote.com, or calling 1-800-579-1639.

The SEC has enacted rules that permit us to make available to stockholders electronic versions of the proxy materials even if the stockholder has not previously elected to receive the materials in this manner. We have chosen this option in connection with the Annual Meeting with respect to our beneficial owners and stockholders of record.

# Who can vote at the Annual Meeting?

Only stockholders of record at the close of business on June 3, 2013 will be entitled to vote at the Annual Meeting. On the record date, there were 53,134,239 shares of common stock of the Company outstanding and entitled to vote.

### Stockholder of Record: Shares Registered in Your Name

If, on June 3, 2013, your shares were registered directly in your name with the Company s transfer agent, Continental Stock Transfer & Trust Company, then you are a stockholder of record. As a stockholder of record, you may vote in person at the meeting or vote by proxy. Whether or not you plan to attend the meeting, we urge you to vote your shares by completing, signing, dating and mailing your proxy card in the envelope provided, if you received paper copies of the proxy materials, or vote by proxy over the telephone or the Internet as instructed below to ensure your vote is counted.

### Beneficial Owner: Shares Registered in the Name of a Broker or Bank

If, on June 3, 2013, your shares were held not in your name, but rather in an account at a brokerage firm, bank, dealer, or other similar organization, then you are the beneficial owner of shares held in street name and these proxy materials are being forwarded to you by that organization. The organization holding your account is considered to be the stockholder of record for purposes of voting at the Annual Meeting. As a beneficial owner, you have the right to direct your broker or other agent regarding how to vote the shares in your account. You are also invited to attend the Annual Meeting; however, since you are not the stockholder of record, you may not vote your shares in person at the meeting unless you request and obtain a valid proxy from your broker or other agent.

# What am I voting on?

There are six matters scheduled for a vote:

Election of the following two nominees recommended by the Board of Directors to be Class I directors and to hold office until the fiscal 2016 Annual Meeting of Stockholders: Peter J. Jacullo III and Adam L. Suttin. Ratification of the appointment by the Audit Committee of the Company s Board of Directors of Ernst & Young LLP as the Company s independent registered public accounting firm for the fiscal year ending December 31, 2013. Approval of the 2012 Omnibus Award Plan.

Approval of the performance goals of the 2012 Omnibus Award Plan.

Approval, on a non-binding advisory basis, of the compensation paid to the Company s named executive officers (a Say-on-Pay vote).

Approval, on a non-binding advisory basis, of the frequency of Say-on-Pay votes.

# How do I vote?

You may either vote For both of the nominees to the Board of Directors or you may Withhold your vote for any nominee you specify. For the ratification of the Audit Committee s selection of Ernst & Young LLP as the Company s independent registered public accounting firm for the fiscal year ending December 31, 2013, you may vote For or

Against or abstain from voting. For the approval of the 2012 Omnibus Award Plan and for the approval of the performance goals of the 2012 Omnibus Award Plan, you may vote For or Against or abstain from voting. For the advisory vote on named executive officer compensation, you may vote For or Against or abstain from voting. For the advisory vote regarding the preferred frequency of Say-on-Pay votes, you may vote that such vote be taken every 1

Why did I receive a full set of proxy materials in the mail insteadof a Notice of Internet Availability of Proxy Materials

Year, 2 Years or 3 Years or abstain from voting.

The procedures for voting are as follows:

### Stockholder of Record: Shares Registered in Your Name

If you are a stockholder of record, you may vote in person at the Annual Meeting, vote by proxy using the enclosed proxy card (if you received paper copies of the proxy materials), vote by proxy over the

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telephone, or vote by proxy over the Internet. Whether or not you plan to attend the meeting, we urge you to vote by proxy to ensure your vote is counted. You may still attend the meeting and vote in person even if you have already voted by proxy.

To vote in person, come to the Annual Meeting and we will give you a ballot when you arrive. If you would like directions to the meeting location, please call 763-852-2901.

If you received paper copies of the proxy materials, to vote using the proxy card, simply complete, sign and date the enclosed proxy card and return it promptly in the envelope provided. If you return your signed proxy card to us before the Annual Meeting, we will vote your shares as you direct.

To vote over the telephone, dial toll-free 1-800-690-6903 using a touch-tone phone and follow the recorded instructions. Please have available the 12-Digit Control Number from the enclosed proxy card, if you received one, or from your Notice. Your vote must be received by 11:59 p.m. Eastern Time (10:59 p.m. Central Time) on July 22, 2013, to be counted.

To vote over the Internet, go to *http://www.proxyvote.com* to complete an electronic proxy card. Please have available the 12-Digit Control Number from the enclosed proxy card, if you received one, or from your Notice. Your vote must be received by 11:59 p.m. Eastern Time (10:59 p.m. Central Time) on July 22, 2013, to be counted.

We are providing Internet proxy voting to allow you to vote your shares online, with procedures designed to ensure the authenticity and correctness of your proxy vote instructions. However, please be aware that you must bear any costs associated with your Internet access, such as usage charges from Internet access providers and telephone companies.

### Beneficial Owner: Shares Registered in the Name of Broker or Bank

If you are a beneficial owner of shares registered in the name of your broker, bank, or other agent, you may have received a proxy card and voting instructions with these proxy materials from that organization rather than from us. Simply complete and mail the proxy card to ensure that your vote is submitted to your broker or bank. Alternatively, you may vote by telephone or over the Internet as instructed by your broker or bank. To vote in person at the Annual Meeting, you must obtain a valid proxy from your broker, bank, or other agent. Follow the instructions from your

broker or bank included with these proxy materials, or contact your broker or bank to request a proxy form.

## How many votes do I have?

On each matter to be voted upon, you have one vote for each share of common stock you own as of June 3, 2013. There is no cumulative voting for election of directors.

# What if I return a proxy card but do not make specific choices?

If you return a signed and dated proxy card without marking any voting selections, your shares will be voted For the election of the nominees for director, For the ratification of the selection of Ernst & Young LLP as the Company s independent auditors for the fiscal year ending December 31, 2013, For the approval of the 2012 Omnibus Award Plan, For the approval of the performance goals of the 2012 Omnibus Award Plan, For the advisory vote on named executive officer compensation, and for 1 Year as the preferred frequency for Say-on-Pay votes. If any other matter is properly presented at the meeting, your proxyholder (one of the individuals named on your proxy card) will vote your shares using his or her best judgment.

# Who is paying for this proxy solicitation?

We will pay for the entire cost of soliciting proxies. Our directors and employees may solicit proxies in person, by telephone, or by other means of communication. Directors and employees will not be paid any additional compensation for soliciting proxies. We may also reimburse brokerage firms, banks and other agents for the cost of forwarding proxy materials to beneficial owners.

# What does it mean if I receive more than one proxy card?

If you receive more than one proxy card, your shares are registered in more than one name or are registered in different accounts. Please complete, sign and return **each** proxy card to ensure that all of your shares are voted.

# Are proxy materials available on the Internet?

This proxy statement and our fiscal 2012 Annual Report to Stockholders are available at *https://materials.proxyvote.com/*88677Q.

# Can I change my vote after submitting my proxy?

Yes. You can revoke your proxy at any time before the final vote at the Annual Meeting. If you are the record holder of your shares, you may revoke your proxy in any one of four ways:

You may submit another properly completed proxy card with a later date.

You may submit a new vote by telephone or Internet.

You may send a timely written notice that you are revoking your proxy to our Secretary at 14000 Carlson Parkway, Plymouth, Minnesota 55441.

You may attend the Annual Meeting and vote in person; however, simply attending the Annual Meeting will not, by itself, revoke your proxy.

If your shares are held by your broker or bank as a nominee or agent, you should follow the instructions provided by your broker or bank.

# How many votes are needed to approve each proposal?

For Proposal 1, the election of Class I directors, the two nominees receiving the most For votes (from the holders of shares present in person or represented by proxy at the Annual Meeting and voting on the election of directors) will be elected. Only For votes will affect the approval of this proposal.

To be approved, Proposal 2, ratification of the appointment of Ernst & Young LLP as our independent registered public accounting firm for the fiscal year ending December 31, 2013, must receive a For vote from the majority of shares present in person or by proxy at the Annual Meeting and voting on this proposal. If you Abstain from voting, it will have no effect on the approval of this proposal.

To be approved, Proposal 3, approval of the 2012 Omnibus Award Plan to allow the grant of performance awards, must receive a For vote from the majority of shares present in person or by proxy at the Annual Meeting and voting on this proposal. If you Abstain from voting, it will have no effect on the approval of this proposal.

To be approved, Proposal 4, approval of the performance goals of the 2012 Omnibus Award Plan, must receive a For vote from the majority of shares present in person or by proxy at the Annual Meeting and voting on this proposal. If you Abstain from voting, it will have no effect on the approval of this proposal.

Proposal 5, regarding named executive officer compensation, is an advisory vote, which means that the vote is not binding on the Company, our Board of Directors or the Compensation Committee of the Board of Directors. To the extent there is any significant vote against our named executive officer compensation as disclosed in this proxy statement, the Compensation Committee will evaluate whether any actions are necessary to address the concerns of stockholders.

Proposal 6, regarding the preferred frequency of Say-on-Pay votes, is an advisory vote, which means that the vote is not binding on the Company, our Board of Directors or the Compensation Committee of the Board of Directors. The Board of Directors and the Compensation Committee will take into account the outcome of the vote, however, when considering the frequency of future advisory votes on named executive officer compensation.

# How are votes counted?

Votes will be counted by the inspector of election appointed for the Annual Meeting.

### What are broker non-votes ?

If you hold your shares in street name and do not provide voting instructions to your broker, your shares will not be voted on any proposal for which your broker does not have or does not exercise discretionary authority to vote (a broker non-vote). Shares constituting broker non-votes are not counted or deemed to have voted on a non-routine matter at the Annual Meeting and, therefore, have no effect on the election of directors in Proposal 1, the approval of the 2012 Omnibus Award Plan or the approval of the performance goals of the 2012 Omnibus Award Plan in Proposals 3 and 4, or the Say-on-Pay or the Say-on-Pay frequency in Proposals 5 and 6, because such proposals are considered non-routine matters. If you do not provide voting instructions to your broker, your broker will have discretion to vote your shares on Proposal 2, because the ratification of auditor appointment is considered a routine matter. Broker non-votes are counted as present for the purpose of determining a quorum at the Annual Meeting.

## What is the quorum requirement?

A quorum of stockholders is necessary to hold a valid meeting. A quorum will be present if stockholders holding at least a majority of the outstanding shares are present at the meeting in person or represented by proxy. On the record date, there were 53,134,239 shares outstanding and entitled to vote. Thus, the holders of 26,567,120 shares must be present in person or represented by proxy at the meeting to have a quorum.

Your shares will be counted towards the quorum only if you submit a valid proxy (or one is submitted on your behalf by your broker, bank or other nominee) or if you vote in person at the meeting. Proxies marked Abstain as well as broker non-votes will also be counted towards the quorum requirement. If there is no quorum, the holders of a majority of shares present at the meeting in person or represented by proxy, or the chairman of the meeting, may adjourn the meeting to another date.

# How can I find out the results of the voting at the Annual Meeting?

Preliminary voting results will be announced at the Annual Meeting. Final voting results will be published in a Current Report on Form 8-K, which we will file within four business days of the Annual Meeting.

# When are stockholder proposals due for the 2014 Annual Meeting?

Any appropriate proposal submitted by a stockholder and intended to be included in the Company proxy statement and related proxy and presented at the 2014 Annual Meeting must be submitted in writing to our Secretary at 14000 Carlson Parkway, Plymouth, Minnesota 55441, and received no later than February 14, 2014. A stockholder proposal will need to comply with the SEC regulations under Rule 14a-8 of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended (the Exchange Act ), regarding the inclusion of stockholder proposals in company-sponsored proxy materials. Although our Board of Directors will consider stockholder proposals, we reserve the right to omit from our proxy statement, or to vote against, stockholder proposals that we are not required to include under the Exchange Act, including Rule 14a-8.

Additionally, pursuant to the advance notice provisions of the Company s Bylaws, as authorized by applicable state

law, in order for stockholders to present director nominations or other business at the 2014 Annual Meeting, a stockholder s notice of such nomination or other business must be received by our Secretary at the same address no earlier than the close of business on March 25, 2014 and no later than the close of business on April 24, 2014 and must be in a form that complies with the requirements set forth in the Company s Bylaws. You are advised to review the Company s Bylaws for these requirements.

# **EXPLANATORY NOTE**

On August 21, 2012, Tile Shop Holdings, Inc., a Delaware corporation (the TS Holdings ) consummated the transactions contemplated pursuant to that certain Contribution and Merger Agreement dated as of June 27, 2012, among TS Holdings, JWC Acquisition Corp., a publicly-held Delaware corporation (JWCAC), The Tile Shop, LLC, a privately-held Delaware limited liability company (The Tile Shop ), and certain other parties. Through a series of transactions, The Tile Shop was contributed to and became a subsidiary of TS Holdings and TS Holdings effected a business combination with and became a successor issuer to JWCAC. These transactions are referred to herein as the Business Combination. Unless the context otherwise requires or as otherwise stated herein, all references herein to the Company, Tile Shop, we, us and our refer to The Tile Shop prior to completion of the Business Combination a Holdings following completion of the Business Combination, and all references to JWCAC refer to JWCAC prior to completion of the Business Combination.

# PROPOSAL 1 ELECTION OF DIRECTORS

The Board of Directors is divided into three classes, with each class serving staggered three-year terms. Vacancies on the Board may be filled only by persons elected by a majority of the remaining directors. A director elected by the Board to fill a vacancy in a class, including vacancies created by an increase in the number of directors, shall serve for the remainder of the full term of that class and until the director s successor is elected and qualified, subject to the director s earlier death, resignation or removal.

The term of office of the Class I directors expires at the Annual Meeting. The Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee recommended to the Board, and the Board has set the number of Class I directors at two and has nominated Peter J. Jacullo III and Adam L. Suttin for election at the Annual Meeting. Messrs. Jacullo and Suttin have been members of the Company s Board since August 2012. Previously, Mr. Jacullo served as a member of The Tile Shop s board of managers from December 2007 to August 2012 and Mr. Suttin served as president of JWC Acquisition Corp. If elected at the Annual Meeting, each of these nominees would serve until the 2016 Annual Meeting and until his successor is elected and has qualified, or, if sooner, until the director s death, resignation or removal.

Directors are elected by a plurality of the votes cast in person or by proxy and entitled to vote on the election of directors. The two nominees receiving the most For votes (among votes properly cast in person or by proxy) will be elected. If no contrary indication is made, shares represented by executed proxies will be voted For the election of the two nominees named above. If, prior to the meeting, it should become known that any of the nominees will be unwilling or unable to serve as a director after the meeting by reason of resignation, death, incapacity or other unexpected occurrence, the proxies will be voted For such substitute nominee as is determined by the Board or, alternatively, not voted for any nominee. The Board has no reason to believe that any nominee will withdraw or be unable to serve.

The following is a brief biography for the nominees for Class I director and each person whose term of office as a Class II or Class III director will continue after the Annual Meeting.

Name	$Age^{(1)}$	Position	
Class I Director Nominees:	-		
Peter J. Jacullo III <sup>(2)(3)</sup>	58	Director	
Adam L. Suttin <sup>(2)</sup>	45	Director	
Class II Directors:			
Peter H. Kamin <sup>(2)(4)</sup>	51	Director	
Todd Krasnow <sup>(3)(4)</sup>	55	Director	
Class III Directors:			
Robert A. Rucker	60	Chief Executive Officer and President; Director	
William E. Watts <sup>(3)</sup>	60	Director; Chairman of the Board	
(1)		As of the date of this means statement	
(1)		As of the date of this proxy statement.	
(2)	Member of the Audit Committee.		
(3)	Member of the Compensation Committee.		
(4)	Member of the Nor	ninating and Corporate Governance Committee.	

# **Directors and Nominees**

# Nominees for Election for a Three-Year Term Expiring at the 2016 Annual Meeting

Peter J. Jacullo III has served as a member of our Board since August 2012. Previously, Mr. Jacullo served as a member of The Tile Shop s board of managers from December 2007 to August 2012. Since July 1987, Mr. Jacullo has been a self-employed investor and consultant, and he currently serves on the board of directors of various privately-held companies. Previously, Mr. Jacullo was a vice president and director of the Boston Consulting Group from May 1984 to July 1987, where he was also employed in various other capacities from May 1978 to May 1984. He is currently a director of ANZ Terminals Pty Limited, an Australia-based independent operator of bulk liquid and gas storage facilities with facilities located in

Australia and New Zealand, and of Magnatech International Inc., a provider of equipment for the hydraulic hose industry. Mr. Jacullo holds an M.B.A. from the University of Chicago and a B.A. in Economics from Johns Hopkins University. We believe that Mr. Jacullo is qualified to serve on our board of directors in light of the continuity that he provides on our board of directors and his experience as a professional investor.

Adam L. Suttin has served as a member of our Board since August 2012. Previously, Mr. Suttin served as president of JWC Acquisition Corp. Mr. Suttin co-founded J.W. Childs Associates, L.P., a private equity investment firm, in 1995 and is a partner of that firm. From 1989 to 1995, Mr. Suttin was an investment professional at Thomas H. Lee Company. He is currently a member of the board of directors of Brookstone, Inc., Sunny Delight Beverages Co., Esselte Ltd., JA Apparel Corp. (Joseph Abboud), Mattress Firm Holdings, Inc., and The NutraSweet Company. Mr. Suttin holds a B.S. in Economics from the Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania and a B.A.S. in Engineering from the Moore School of Engineering of the University of Pennsylvania. We believe that Mr. Suttin is qualified to serve on our board of directors in light of his experience as a co-founder of J.W. Childs and his experience as a director of various companies.

### **Directors Continuing In Office Until the 2014 Annual Meeting**

Peter H. Kamin has served as a member of our Board since August 2012. Previously, Mr. Kamin served as a member of The Tile Shop s board of managers from January 2012 to August 2012. Mr. Kamin has served as managing partner of 3K Limited Partnership, an investment fund, since January 2012. Previously, Mr. Kamin was the founding partner of ValueAct Capital, an investment fund, from January 2000 to January 2012. Since June 2012, Mr. Kamin has been a director and member of the Audit Committee of Ambassadors Group, Inc., a publicly-traded educational travel company; since May 2012, Mr. Kamin has been a director and member of the governance committee of MAM Software Group, Inc., a publicly-traded provider of business automation and ecommerce solutions for the automotive aftermarket; and since April 2012, Mr. Kamin has been a director and member of the Audit Committee of Rand Worldwide, Inc., a provider of technology solutions and professional services to engineering and design companies. Mr. Kamin previously served on the board of directors and as a member of the Audit Committee of Adesa, Inc., a publicly-traded provider of vehicle auction and remarketing services, from April 2007 to December 2011; on the board of directors and as a member of the audit and Compensation Committees of Seitel, Inc., a publicly-traded provider of onshore seismic data to the oil and gas industry, from February 2007 to December 2011; and on the board of directors and as a member of the governance committee of Exterran Holdings, Inc., a provider of natural gas compression products and services, from January 2007 to September 2008. Mr. Kamin holds an M.B.A. from the Harvard University Graduate School of Business and a B.A. in Economics from Tufts University. We believe that Mr. Kamin is qualified to serve on our board of directors due to his significant experience as a director of publicly-traded companies and his substantial experience as an investor.

**Todd Krasnow** has served as a member of our Board since August 2012. Previously, Mr. Krasnow served as a member of The Tile Shop s board of managers from January 2012 to August 2012. Mr. Krasnow has served as the president of Cobbs Capital, Inc., a private consulting company, since January 2005, and as marketing domain expert with Highland Consumer Fund, a venture capital firm, since June 2007. Previously, Mr. Krasnow was the chairman of Zoots, Inc., a dry cleaning company, from June 2003 to January 2008 and Chief Executive Officer of Zoots, Inc. from February 1998 to June 2003. He served as the executive vice president of sales and marketing of Staples, Inc. from May 1993 to January 1998 and in other sales and marketing positions for Staples, Inc. from March 1986 to May 1993. Since September 2005, Mr. Krasnow has served as a director of Carbonite, Inc., a publicly-traded provider of online backup solutions for consumers and small and medium sized businesses; since December 2005, Mr. Krasnow has served as a member of Carbonite s Audit Committee. Mr. Krasnow is also a director of OnForce, Inc., an online marketplace that enables

enterprises to hire information technology service professionals, and Global Customer Commerce, Inc., an internet retailer of blinds and wall coverings; and a member of the advisory boards of C&S Wholesale Grocers, Inc. and Piedmont, Ltd., a Japanese storage company, which conducts business as Quraz. Mr. Krasnow holds an M.B.A. from the Harvard University Graduate School of Business and an A.B. in Chemistry from Cornell University. We believe that Mr. Krasnow is qualified to serve on our board of directors due to his operating and management experience and his expertise in sales and marketing.

### **Directors Continuing In Office Until the 2015 Annual Meeting**

**Robert A. Rucker** has been our Chief Executive Officer and president, and a member of our Board since June 2012. Previously, Mr. Rucker served as The Tile Shop s Chief Executive Officer and president, and as a member of its board of managers. Mr. Rucker holds a B.E.S. in Psychology and History from the University of Minnesota. We believe that Mr. Rucker is qualified to serve on our board of directors based on his historic knowledge of The Tile Shop as its founder and his strategic vision for our Company.

William E. Watts has served as a member of our Board since August 2012. Previously, Mr. Watts served as vice president of JWC Acquisition Corp. Mr. Watts has been a partner of J. W. Childs Associates, L.P., a private equity investment firm, since June 2001. From 1991 to 2001, he was president and Chief Executive Officer of General Nutrition Companies. Prior to being named president and Chief Executive Officer, Mr. Watts held the positions of president and Chief Operating Officer of General Nutrition, president and Chief Operating Officer of General Nutrition Center, and senior vice president of retailing and vice president of retail operations of General Nutrition Center. Mr. Watts currently serves as non-executive chairman of the board of directors of Mattress Firm Holdings, Inc. and as executive chairman of the board of directors of JA Apparel Corp. (Joseph Abboud) and Brookstone, Inc. Mr. Watts holds a B.A. in Social Science from the State University of New York at Buffalo. We believe that Mr. Watts is qualified to serve on our board of directors in light of his experience as a director of various companies and his experience as Chief Executive Officer of a company with a well-known brand.

# Information Regarding the Board of Directors and Corporate Governance

### Independence of the Board of Directors

As required under the rules and regulations of the Nasdaq Stock Market, or Nasdaq, a majority of the members of a listed company s board of directors must qualify as independent, as affirmatively determined by the Board of Directors. Based upon information requested from and provided by each director concerning his background, employment, and affiliations, including family relationships, we have determined that Messrs. Jacullo, Kamin, Krasnow, Suttin, and Watts, representing five of our six directors, do not have a relationship that would interfere with the exercise of independent judgment in carrying out the responsibilities of a director and that each of these directors will be independent as that term is defined under the applicable rules and regulations of the Securities and Exchange Commission, or the SEC, and the listing requirements and rules of Nasdaq. Mr. Rucker, the Company s Chief Executive Officer and President, is not an independent director by virtue of his employment with the Company.

### **Board Leadership Structure**

We have separate individuals serving as Chairman of the Board and as Chief Executive Officer and President because we believe independent directors and management have different perspectives and roles in strategy development. The CEO and President is responsible for setting the strategic direction of the Company and managing the day-to-day leadership and performance of the Company, while the Chairman provides guidance to the CEO and President, sets the agenda for meetings of the Board and presides over meetings of the full Board. We believe this structure promotes active participation of the independent directors and strengthens the role of the Board in fulfilling its oversight responsibility and fiduciary duties to our stockholders while recognizing the day-to-day management direction of the Company by the CEO and President.

### **Oversight of Risk Management**

The Board has an active role, as a whole and also at the committee level, in overseeing management of the Company s risks. The Board regularly reviews information regarding the Company s credit, liquidity and operations, as well as the risks associated with each, and the Board receives regular reports from members of senior management on areas of material risk to the Company, including operational, financial, legal, regulatory, strategic and reputational risks. The Compensation Committee is responsible for overseeing the management of risks relating to the Company s compensation policies, plans and arrangements. The Compensation Committee addresses risk by monitoring regulatory compliance with respect to compensation matters and by setting compensation in a manner that encourages accountability and is within the Company s

range of risk tolerance. The Compensation Committee does not undertake a formal risk assessment. The Audit Committee oversees our internal control, conducts a regular review of the Company s policies and processes with respect to risk assessment and risk management, including guidelines and policies to govern the process by which the Company s exposure to risk is handled, and oversees any transactions the Company may have with related persons, in order to manage risks relating to potential conflicts of interest. The Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee manages risks associated with the composition and independence of the Board and matters covered by the Company s Code of Business Conduct and Ethics. The Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee also oversees succession planning for senior executives, in order to manage transitions and the risk of an unplanned vacancy. While each committee is responsible for evaluating certain risks and overseeing the management of such risks, the entire Board is regularly informed through committee reports about such risks and has overall risk management oversight responsibility.

### **Code of Business Conduct and Ethics**

The Company has adopted a Code of Business Conduct and Ethics that applies to all officers, directors and employees. We intend to maintain the highest standards of ethical business practices and compliance with all laws and regulations applicable to our business. The Code of Business Conduct and Ethics is available at our website, *www.tileshop.com*, in the Info Legal/Investors Investor Relations section, under Governance Governance Documents. We intend to satisfy the disclosure requirement under Item 5.05 of Form 8-K regarding an amendment to, or waiver from, a provision of our Code of Business Conduct and Ethics by posting such information on our website at the web address and location specified above.

### Stockholder Communications with the Board of Directors

Stockholders may communicate directly with the Board. All communications should be made via our investor relations telephone number or email address, as listed below. Email subject lines should prominently indicate whether the message is intended for the full Board, for non-management directors or for a specific director, and the Company s Secretary will forward the communications as indicated. If no director is specified, the communication will be forwarded to the entire Board.

Tile Shop Holdings, Inc. Investor Relations Phone: (763) 852-2988 Email: investorrelations@tileshop.com

### **Director Attendance at Annual Meetings of Stockholders**

Directors attendance at annual meetings of our stockholders can provide stockholders with an opportunity to communicate with directors about issues affecting the Company. We encourage, but do not require, our directors and nominees for director to attend annual meetings of stockholders.

### Meetings of the Board of Directors

Our Board met two times between the effective date of the Business Combination and December 31, 2012. All directors attended at least 75% of the aggregate of the meetings of the Board and of the committees on which they served and which were held during the period for which they were directors or committee members. In addition, the directors often communicate informally to discuss the affairs of the Company and, when appropriate, take formal action by written consent, in accordance with the Company s charter and bylaws and Delaware law.

### **Involvement in Certain Legal Proceedings**

In October 2011, Mr. Kinder was involved in a domestic dispute (misdemeanor charge stayed) and a verbal altercation with police officers (pled guilty to a gross misdemeanor).

## **Committees of the Board of Directors**

During the fiscal year ended December 31, 2012, the Board maintained three standing committees: the Audit Committee, the Compensation Committee and the Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee, each of which were formed upon completion of the Business Combination. The following table provides current committee membership, and meeting information for fiscal 2012 for each of the committees of the Board in existence from the effective date of the Business Combination through December 31, 2012:

Name	Audit	Compensation	Nominating and Corporate Governance
Robert A. Rucker			
Peter J. Jacullo III	Х	Х	
Peter H. Kamin	X*		Х
Todd Krasnow		X*	X*
Adam L. Suttin	Х		
William E. Watts		Х	

Committee Chairperson

Below is a description of each committee of the Board as such committees are presently constituted. Members of the committees serve until their resignation from the committee or until otherwise determined by our Board. The Board has determined that each current member of each committee meets the applicable SEC and Nasdaq rules and regulations regarding independence and that each member is free of any relationship that would impair his individual exercise of independent judgment with regard to the Company.

### **Audit Committee**

Our Audit Committee oversees our corporate accounting and financial reporting process, the audit of our financial statements, and our internal control processes. Among other matters, the Audit Committee evaluates our independent auditors qualifications, independence, and performance; determines the engagement, retention, and compensation of the independent auditors; reviews and approves the scope of the annual audit and the audit fee; discusses with management and the independent auditors the results of the annual audit and the review of our quarterly financial statements, including the disclosures in our annual and quarterly reports to be filed with the SEC; approves the retention of the independent auditors to perform any proposed permissible non-audit services; reviews our risk assessment and risk management processes; establishes procedures for receiving, retaining, and investigating complaints received by us regarding accounting, internal accounting controls, or audit matters; monitors the rotation of partners of the independent auditors on our engagement team as required by law; reviews our critical accounting policies and estimates; and oversees any internal audit function. Additionally, the Audit Committee reviews and approves related person transactions and reviews and evaluates, on an annual basis, the Audit Committee charter and the committee s performance. Our independent registered public accounting firm and management each periodically meet privately with our Audit Committee.

The current members of our Audit Committee are Messrs. Jacullo, Kamin, and Suttin, with Mr. Kamin serving as the chair of the committee. All members of our Audit Committee meet the requirements for financial literacy under the applicable rules and regulations of the SEC and Nasdaq. Our board of directors has determined that Mr. Kamin is an Audit Committee financial expert as defined under the applicable rules of the SEC and has the requisite financial

sophistication as defined under the applicable rules and regulations of Nasdaq. A description of Mr. Kamin s experience is set forth above under Directors Continuing in Office Until the 2014 Annual Meeting. Messrs. Jacullo, Kamin, and Suttin are independent directors as defined under the applicable rules and regulations of the SEC, Nasdaq and Public Company Accounting Oversight Board. The Audit Committee operates under a written charter that satisfies the applicable standards of the SEC and Nasdaq, and which is available at our website, *www.tileshop.com*, in the Info Legal/Investors Investor Relations section, under Governance Governance Documents. The Audit Committee met once between the effective date of the Business Combination and December 31, 2012.

## Report of the Audit Committee of the Board of Directors

In accordance with its written charter, the Audit Committee assists the Board with fulfilling its oversight responsibility regarding the quality and integrity of the accounting, auditing and financial reporting practices of the Company. In discharging its oversight responsibilities regarding the audit process, the Audit Committee:

(1) reviewed and discussed the audited financial statements with management and the independent auditors; discussed with the independent auditors the material required to be discussed by Statement on Auditing Standards

- (2)No. 61, as amended (AICPA, Professional Standards, Vol. 1, AU section 380), as adopted by the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board in Rule 3200T, with and without management present; and received the written disclosures and the letter from the independent auditors required by applicable requirements of the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board regarding the independent accountant s communications with the
- (3) Audit Committee concerning independence, and discussed with the independent accountant the independent accountant is independence.

Based upon the review and discussions referred to above, the Audit Committee recommended to the Board of Directors that the audited financial statements be included in the Company s Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2012, as filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission.

Peter H. Kamin, Chair Peter J. Jacullo III Adam L. Suttin

### **Compensation Committee**

Our Compensation Committee reviews and recommends policies relating to compensation and benefits of our executive officers and employees. The Compensation Committee annually reviews and approves corporate goals and objectives relevant to compensation of our Chief Executive Officer and other executive officers, evaluates the performance of these officers in light of those goals and objectives, and sets the compensation of these officers based on such evaluations. The Compensation Committee also reviews and makes recommendations to the board with respect to director compensation and administers the issuance of stock options and other awards under our equity compensation plans. The Compensation Committee reviews and prepares the necessary compensation disclosures required by the SEC. Additionally, the Compensation Committee reviews and evaluates, on an annual basis, the Compensation Committee charter and the committee s performance.

The current members of our Compensation Committee are Messrs. Jacullo, Krasnow, and Watts, with Mr. Krasnow serving as the chair of the committee. All of the members of our Compensation Committee are independent under the applicable rules and regulations of the SEC, Nasdaq, and Section 162(m) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended (the Code ). The Compensation Committee operates under a written charter that satisfies the applicable standards of the SEC and NASDAQ, and which is available at our website, *www.tileshop.com*, in the Info Legal/Investors Investor Relations section, under Governance Governance Documents. The Compensation Committee did not meet between the effective date of the Business Combination and December 31, 2012.

The Compensation Committee may approve executive compensation arrangements or, in its discretion, may recommend such matters to the full Board for approval. All executive compensation is based on assessments of executive performance, which are prepared by the Compensation Committee and submitted to the full Board for review and discussion. All Compensation Committee recommendations regarding director compensation are subject to approval by the full Board. Pursuant to its charter, the Compensation Committee may delegate any of its

responsibilities to a subcommittee comprised of one or more members of the Compensation Committee; provided that the Compensation Committee is not permitted to delegate its responsibilities with respect to any executive compensation arrangements intended to comply with Section 162(m) of the Code by virtue of it being approved by a committee of outside directors or is

intended to be exempt from Section 16(b) under the Exchange Act by virtue of being approved by a committee of non-employee directors.

No executive officers may be present during any Compensation Committee voting or deliberations with respect to our Chief Executive Officer s compensation. Our Chief Executive Officer may, at the Compensation Committee s discretion, be present during any other voting or deliberations regarding compensation of our other executive officers, but may not vote on such items of business.

### **Compensation Committee Interlocks and Insider Participation**

The Compensation Committee consists of Messrs. Jacullo, Krasnow, and Watts. None of the individuals who currently serve as a member of our Compensation Committee has ever been an executive officer or employee of ours. In connection with the Business Combination, each of Messrs. Jacullo, Krasnow and Watts received compensation from and entered into agreements with the Company as described in Certain Relationships and Related Transactions. None of our executive officers currently serves, nor in the past year has served, as a member of the board of directors or Compensation Committee (or other board committee performing equivalent functions) of any entity that has one or more executive officers serving on our board of directors or Compensation Committee. During the fiscal year completed December 31, 2012, none of The Tile Shop s executive officers or employees, other than Mr. Rucker, participated in the deliberations of The Tile Shop s board of managers concerning executive officer compensation.

### Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee

Our Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee is responsible for making recommendations regarding corporate governance; identification, evaluation and nomination of candidates for directorships; and the structure and composition of our board of directors and committees thereof. In addition, the Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee oversees our corporate governance guidelines, approves our committee charters, oversee compliance with our code of business conduct and ethics, contributes to succession planning, reviews actual and potential conflicts of interest of our directors and officers other than related person transactions reviewed by the Audit Committee, and oversees the board of directors self-evaluation process. Additionally, the Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee reviews and evaluates, on an annual basis, the Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee charter and the committee s performance.

The current members of our Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee are Messrs. Kamin and Krasnow, with Mr. Krasnow serving as the chair of the committee. All of the members of our Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee are independent under the applicable rules and regulations of Nasdaq. The Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee operates under a written charter, which is available at our website, *www.tileshop.com*, in the Info Legal/Investors Investor Relations section, under Governance Governance Documents. The Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee did not meet between the effective date of the Business Combination and December 31, 2012.

The Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee considers the following criteria, among other criteria that it deems appropriate, in recommending candidates for service on the Board:

#### Personal and professional integrity;

Experience in corporate management, such as service as an officer of a publicly held company and a general understanding of marketing, finance and other elements relevant to the success of a publicly held company; Experience in the Company s industry;

Compensation Committee Interlocks and Insider Participation

Experience as a member of the board of directors of another publicly held company; Academic expertise in the area of the Company s operations;

Practical and mature business judgment, including the ability to make independent analytical inquires; and The manner in which a candidate s appointment to the Board would impact the overall composition of the Board with regard to diversity of viewpoint, professional experience, education, skill, race, gender and national origin. 13

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In assessing director candidates, the Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee considers diversity, age, skills, and such other factors as it deems appropriate given the current needs of the Board of Directors and the Company, to maintain a balance of knowledge, experience and capability. The Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee does not have a formal diversity policy and does not follow any ratio or formula with respect to diversity in order to determine the appropriate composition of the Board. In the case of incumbent directors whose terms of office are set to expire, the Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee reviews these directors overall service to the Company during their terms, including the number of meetings attended, level of participation, quality of performance, and any other relationships and transactions that might impair the directors independence. In the case of new director candidates, the Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee also determines whether the nominee is independent for Nasdaq purposes, which determination is based upon applicable Nasdaq listing standards, applicable SEC rules and regulations and the advice of counsel, if necessary. The Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee conducts any appropriate and necessary inquiries into the backgrounds and qualifications of possible candidates after considering the function and needs of the Board of Directors. The Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee meets to discuss and consider the candidates qualifications and then selects a nominee by majority vote.

The Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee will consider director candidates recommended by stockholders. The Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee does not intend to alter the manner in which it evaluates candidates, including the minimum criteria set forth above, based on whether or not the candidate was recommended by a stockholder. To nominate a director for the 2014 Annual Meeting, stockholders must submit such nomination in writing to our Secretary at 14000 Carlson Parkway, Plymouth, Minnesota 55441 not later than the close of business on April 24, 2014 nor earlier than the close of business on March 25, 2014, provided, however, that in the event that the date of the 2014 Annual Meeting is advanced more than 30 days prior to July 23, 2014 or delayed more than 70 days following July 23, 2014, such notice must be received by the Company no earlier than 120 days prior to the 2014 Annual Meeting or the 10<sup>th</sup> day following the day on which public announcement of the date of the 2014 Annual Meeting was first made by the Company. You are advised to review the Company s Bylaws for requirements relating to director nominees.

# **VOTE REQUIRED**

The Board recommends that you vote For each of the nominees to the Board set forth in this Proposal 1. Under our Bylaws, the election of each nominee requires the affirmative vote of a plurality of the votes cast by the stockholders entitled to vote on the election of directors at the Annual Meeting at which a quorum is present.

# PROPOSAL 2 RATIFICATION OF APPOINTMENT OF INDEPENDENT REGISTERED PUBLIC ACCOUNTING FIRM

The Audit Committee has appointed Ernst & Young LLP as the Company s independent registered public accounting firm for the fiscal year ending December 31, 2013, and has further directed that management submit the selection of independent registered public accounting firm for ratification by the stockholders at the Annual Meeting. Deloitte & Touche LLP served as the Company s independent registered public accounting firm for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2012. Representatives of Ernst & Young LLP are expected to be present at the Annual Meeting. They will have an opportunity to make a statement if they so desire and will be available to respond to appropriate questions. Representatives of Deloitte & Touche LLP are not expected to be present at the Annual Meeting.

Neither the Company s Bylaws nor other governing documents or law require stockholder ratification of the appointment of Ernst & Young LLP as the Company s independent registered public accounting firm. However, the Audit Committee is submitting the appointment of Ernst & Young LLP to the stockholders for ratification as a matter of good corporate practice. If the stockholders fail to ratify the appointment, the Audit Committee will consider whether or not to retain that firm. Even if the appointment is ratified, the Audit Committee in its discretion may direct the appointment of a different independent registered public accounting firm at any time during the year if they determine that such a change would be in the best interests of the Company and its stockholders.

The affirmative vote of the holders of a majority of the shares present in person or represented by proxy and entitled to vote at the Annual Meeting will be required to ratify the appointment of Ernst & Young LLP.

# Changes in and Disagreements with Accountants on Accounting and Financial Disclosure

On November 18, 2011, the board of managers of The Tile Shop dismissed McGladrey LLP ( McGladrey ) as its independent registered public accounting firm effective as of November 25, 2011. The Tile Shop engaged Deloitte & Touche LLP ( Deloitte ) as its independent registered public accounting firm during the first quarter of 2012. McGladrey s report on The Tile Shop s consolidated financial statements as of December 31, 2010, and for the fiscal years ended December 31, 2010 and 2009, did not contain an adverse opinion or disclaimer of opinion, nor was it qualified or modified as to uncertainty, audit scope or accounting principles. During the fiscal years ended December 31, 2010 and 2009 nor accounting principles. During the fiscal years ended December 31, 2010 and 2009 nor any matter of accounting principles or practices, financial statement disclosure, or auditing scope of procedure which, if not resolved to the satisfaction of McGladrey, would have caused McGladrey to make reference to the matter in their report, or (ii) reportable events as defined in Item 304(a)(1)(v) of Regulation S-K. During the fiscal years ended December 31, 2010 and 2009 and the interim period through November 18, 2011, neither The Tile Shop nor anyone acting on its behalf consulted Deloitte regarding either: (i) the application of accounting principles to a specific transaction, either completed or proposed, or the type of audit opinion that might be rendered on its financial statements; or (ii) any matter that was either the subject of a disagreement (as defined in Item 304(a)(1)(v) of Regulation S-K).

Effective April 9, 2013, the Audit Committee approved the dismissal of Deloitte as the Company s independent registered public accounting firm, and engaged Ernst & Young LLP ( E&Y ) as its independent registered public accounting firm effective immediately. Deloitte s audit reports on the consolidated financial statements of the Company and subsidiaries as of December 31, 2011 and 2012 and for each of the years in the two-year period ended December 31, 2012 did not contain any adverse opinion or disclaimer of opinion and were not qualified or modified as to uncertainty, audit scope, or accounting principles. During the fiscal years ended December 31, 2011 and 2012 and the subsequent interim period through April 9, 2013 there were no disagreements with Deloitte on any matter of accounting principles or practices, financial statement disclosure, or auditing scope or procedure, which, if not resolved to the satisfaction of Deloitte, would have caused Deloitte to make reference to the subject matter of the disagreement(s) in connection with its reports. During the fiscal years ended December 31, 2011 and December 31, 2012 and the subsequent interim period through April 9, 2013 there were no reportable events as defined in Regulation S-K, Item 304(a)(1)(v), other than:

On Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2011, the Company reported the existence of a material weakness in its internal control over financial reporting relating to deficiencies in the financial statement close process. Specifically, the Company lacked sufficient personnel with requisite competencies within its finance function for a company of its size and complexity and did not maintain financial close processes, procedures, and reporting systems that were adequately designed to support the accurate and timely reporting of its financial results. The Company reported the remediation of this material weakness in Item 9A of its Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2012.

On a Form 8-K dated February 18, 2013, the Company reported that its previously-issued financial statements for the three and nine months ended September 30, 2012 contained a misstatement relating to its accounting for outstanding common stock purchase warrants, and on a Form 10-Q/A filed March 18, 2013 restated such financial statements. As a result of the restatement, on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2012 the Company reported the existence of a material weakness in its internal control over financial reporting relating to its identification and analysis of the complex accounting and financial reporting attributes associated with certain non-routine transactions such as the Company s common stock purchase warrant agreements, including not utilizing qualified external experts to supplement internal resources. The Company plans to implement additional procedures to remediate this material weakness.

During the fiscal years ended December 31, 2011 and December 31, 2012 and the subsequent interim period through April 9, 2013, the Company did not consult with E&Y regarding either (i) the application of accounting principles to a specific completed or contemplated transaction or the type of audit opinion that might be rendered on the Company s

consolidated financial statements, and neither a written report was provided to the Company or oral advice was provided that E&Y concluded was an important factor considered by the Company in reaching a decision as to the accounting, auditing or financial reporting issue, or (ii) any matter that was either the subject of a disagreement as defined in (a)(1)(iv) of Item 304 of Regulation S-K and the related instructions to Item 304 of Regulation S-K or a reportable event as that term is defined in (a)(1)(v) of Item 304 of Regulation S-K.

# **Principal Accountant Fees and Services**

The following table represents aggregate fees billed to the Company for the fiscal years ended December 31, 2012, and December 31, 2011, by Deloitte, the Company s principal accountant. All fees described below were approved by the Audit Committee.

	2012	2011
Audit Fees <sup>(1)</sup>	\$ 266,000	\$ 181,800

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Audit-Related Fees <sup>(2)</sup>	753,000
Tax Fees <sup>(3)</sup>	14,500
All Other Fees <sup>(4)</sup>	
	\$ 1,033,500 \$ 181,800

(1) Audit Fees were principally for services rendered for the audit and/or review of our consolidated financial statements.

(2) Audit-Related Fees includes fees for services rendered in connection with the filing of registration statements with the SEC, and the issuance of accountant consents and comfort letters.

(3) Tax Fees consist of fees billed in the indicated year for professional services with respect to tax compliance, tax advice and tax planning.

(4) All Other Fees consist of fees billed in the indicated year for other permissible work that is not included within the above category descriptions.

# **Pre-Approval Policies and Procedures**

Pursuant to its written charter, the Audit Committee is required to pre-approve the audit and non-audit services performed by our independent auditors. Notwithstanding the foregoing, separate Audit Committee pre-approval shall not be required (a) if the engagement for services is entered into pursuant to pre-approval policies and procedures established by the Audit Committee regarding the Company s engagement of the independent auditor (the Pre-Approval Policy ) as to matters within the scope of the Pre-Approval Policy or (b) for de minimus non-audit services that are approved in accordance with applicable SEC rules. The Audit Committee has determined that the rendering of the services other than audit services by its principal accountant is compatible with maintaining the principal accountant s independence.

# **VOTE REQUIRED**

The Board recommends that you vote For the ratification of the appointment of Ernst & Young LLP as the Company s independent registered public accounting firm for the fiscal year ending December 31, 2013. Ratification of the appointment of Ernst & Young LLP requires the affirmative vote of a majority of the shares present in person or represented by proxy and voting on this proposal at the Annual Meeting.

# PROPOSAL 3 APPROVAL OF 2012 OMNIBUS AWARD PLAN

### **Background and Purpose**

In June 2012, our Board and stockholders adopted an equity award plan, which became effective upon the consummation of the Business Combination. As initially adopted, the equity award plan provided for stock-based compensation awards. In February 2013, the Compensation Committee and the Board amended the equity award plan to authorize grants of cash performance-based awards. At the same time, the plan was renamed the 2012 Omnibus Award Plan (the Omnibus Plan ). The Compensation Committee administers the Omnibus Plan, subject to the right of our Board to assume authority for administration or delegate such authority to another committee of the Board. Awards under the Omnibus Plan may be granted to individuals who are then our officers, employees, directors, or consultants or are the officers, employees, directors, or consultants of our subsidiaries. The principal purpose of the equity award plan is to attract, retain, and motivate selected employees, consultants, and directors.

Our Board believes that the availability of incentive awards is an important factor in attracting and retaining the high caliber employees and other service providers essential to our success and in aligning those individuals' long-term interests with those of our stockholders. The Board intends for awards under the Omnibus Plan that are based on achievement of performance goals to qualify as performance-based compensation, and thereby be excluded from the deduction limitations under Section 162(m) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended. The Board of Directors believes that approval of the Omnibus Plan is in the best interests of our Company and our stockholders.

# **Summary of Omnibus Plan**

The principal features of the Omnibus Plan, as amended, are summarized below. This summary is qualified in its entirety by reference to the text of the Omnibus Plan, which is attached hereto as Appendix A. In addition, the description herein of tax and securities laws applicable to the Omnibus Plan is presented in order to summarize the operation of certain applicable regulations, including Sections 409, 422 and 162(m) of the Internal Revenue Code, but does not purport to describe all tax consequences and applicable regulations of the Omnibus Plan.

Share Reserve. Under the Omnibus Plan, 2,500,000 shares of our common stock were initially reserved for issuance pursuant to a variety of stock-based compensation awards, including stock options and restricted stock awards. As initially adopted, the number of shares initially reserved for issuance or transfer pursuant to awards under the Omnibus Plan would increase on the first day of each calendar year beginning in 2013 and ending in 2022, in an amount equal to the least of (A) 2,500,000 shares, (B) six percent (6%) of the shares of common stock outstanding (on an as-converted basis) on the last day of the immediately preceding calendar year, and (C) such smaller number of shares of common stock as determined by our board of directors. In February 2013, the Compensation Committee and the Board acknowledged that 2,500,000 shares of common stock were added to the Omnibus Plan reserve effective January 1, 2013 in accordance with the automatic share increase provision, and amended the Omnibus Plan to eliminate the automatic share increase for subsequent years.

The following counting provisions are in effect for the share reserve under the Omnibus Plan:

to the extent that an award terminates, expires, or lapses for any reason, any shares subject to the award at such time will be available for future grants under the Omnibus Plan, provided that no such shares may be issued pursuant to an

incentive stock option;

to the extent shares are tendered or withheld to satisfy the grant, exercise price, or tax withholding obligation with respect to any award under the Omnibus Plan, such tendered or withheld shares will be available for future grants under the Omnibus Plan, provided that no such shares may be issued pursuant to an incentive stock option; and to the extent permitted by applicable law or any exchange rule, shares issued in assumption of, or in substitution for, any outstanding awards of any entity acquired in any form of combination by us or any of our subsidiaries will not be counted against the shares available for issuance under the Omnibus Plan.

Notwithstanding the foregoing, no individual may be granted stock-based awards under the Omnibus Plan covering more than 2,000,000 shares in any calendar year.

As of June 3, 2013, 5,000,000 shares of common stock were reserved for issuance under the Omnibus Plan. Of this total amount, as of June 3, 2013, 2,070,000 shares of common stock were subject to outstanding options pursuant to the Omnibus Plan and 295,000 shares had been previously granted as restricted stock, which leaves a total of 2,635,000 shares of common stock eligible for issuance as part of future awards.

*Administration*. The Compensation Committee administers the Omnibus Plan, subject to the right of our Board to assume authority for administration or delegate such authority to another committee of the Board. The Compensation Committee must consist of at least two members of our Board, each of whom is intended to qualify as an outside director, within the meaning of Section 162(m) of the Code, a non-employee director for purposes of Rule 16b-3 under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended, or the Exchange Act, and an independent director within the meaning of the rules of the Nasdaq Stock Market, or other principal securities market on which shares of our common stock are traded. The composition of our Compensation Committee meets these requirements. The Omnibus Plan provides that the Compensation Committee may delegate its authority to grant awards to employees other than executive officers and certain senior executives of our Company to one or more of our officers.

Subject to the terms and conditions of the Omnibus Plan, the administrator has the authority to select the persons to whom awards are to be made, to determine the number of shares to be subject to awards and the terms and conditions of awards, and to make all other determinations and to take all other actions necessary or advisable for the administration of the Omnibus Plan. The administrator is also authorized to adopt, amend, or rescind rules relating to administrator of the Omnibus Plan. Our Board may at any time remove the compensation committee as the administrator and revest in itself the authority to administer the Omnibus Plan. The full Board will administer the Omnibus Plan with respect to awards to non-employee directors.

*Eligibility*. Awards under the Omnibus Plan may be granted to individuals who are then our officers, employees, directors, or consultants of our subsidiaries. Only executive officers and employees may be granted incentive stock options, or ISOs.

*Awards*. The Omnibus Plan provides that the administrator may grant or issue stock options, restricted stock and performance awards, or any combination thereof. Each award will be set forth in a separate agreement with the person receiving the award and will indicate the type, terms, and conditions of the award.

*Nonqualified stock options*, or NQSOs, provide for the right to purchase shares of our common stock at a specified price that may not be less than fair market value on the date of grant, and usually will become exercisable (at the discretion of the administrator) in one or more installments after the grant date, subject to the participant s continued employment or service with us or a subsidiary and/or subject to the satisfaction of corporate performance targets and individual performance targets established by the administrator. NQSOs may be granted for any term specified by the administrator, but may not exceed ten years.

*Incentive stock options* are designed in a manner intended to comply with the provisions of Section 422 of the Code and will be subject to specified restrictions contained in the Code. Among such restrictions, ISOs must have an exercise price of not less than the fair market value of a share of common stock on the date of grant, may only be granted to employees, and must not be exercisable after a period of ten years measured from the date of grant. In the case of an ISO granted to an individual who owns (or is deemed to own) at least 10% of the total combined voting power of all classes of our capital stock, the Omnibus Plan provides that the exercise price must be at least 110% of the fair market value of a share of common stock on the date of grant and that the ISO must not be exercisable after a period of five years measured from the date of grant.

*Restricted stock* may be granted to any eligible individual and made subject to such restrictions as may be determined by the administrator. Restricted stock, typically, may be forfeited for no consideration or repurchased by us at the original purchase price if the conditions or restrictions on

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vesting are not met. In general, restricted stock may not be sold, or otherwise transferred, until restrictions are removed or expire. Purchasers of restricted stock, unlike recipients of options, will have voting rights and will have the right to receive dividends, if any, prior to the time when the restrictions lapse.

*Performance awards* provide for the payment of cash to eligible participants upon achievement of certain specified performance goals during the relevant performance period. Performance goals are set by the Compensation Committee and achievement of the relevant performance goals is measured by the Compensation Committee at the end of the performance period. Performance awards are nontransferable and are subject to an annual individual limit of (i) \$5,000,000 or (ii) 300% of the participant s base salary in effect as of the beginning of the applicable performance period, whichever is greater.

*Change of Control*. In the event of a change of control, the administrator may, in its sole discretion, accelerate vesting of awards issued under the Omnibus Plan such that 100% of any such award may become vested and exercisable. Additionally, the administrator has complete discretion to structure one or more awards under the

Omnibus Plan to provide that such awards will become vested and exercisable on an accelerated basis. The administrator may also make appropriate adjustments to awards under the Omnibus Plan and is authorized to provide for the acceleration, termination, assumption, substitution, or conversion of such awards in the event of a change of control or certain other unusual or nonrecurring events or transactions. Under the Omnibus Plan, a change of control is generally defined as:

the transfer or exchange in a single or series of related transactions by our stockholders of more than 50% of our voting securities to a person or group;

a change in the composition of our board of directors over a two-year period such that 50% or more of the members of the board were elected through one or more contested elections;

a merger, consolidation, reorganization, or business combination in which we are involved, directly or indirectly, other than a merger, consolidation, reorganization, or business combination which results in our outstanding voting securities immediately before the transaction continuing to represent a majority of the voting power of the acquiring company s outstanding voting securities and after which no person or group beneficially owns 50% or more of the outstanding voting securities of the surviving entity immediately after the transaction;

the sale, exchange, or transfer of all or substantially all of our assets; or stockholder approval of our liquidation or dissolution.

*Adjustments of Awards*. In the event of any stock dividend, stock split, extraordinary cash dividend, combination or exchange of shares, merger, consolidation, spin-off, recapitalization, distribution of our assets to stockholders, or any other corporate event affecting the number of outstanding shares of our common stock or the share price of our

common stock that would require adjustments to the Omnibus Plan or any awards under the Omnibus Plan in order to prevent the dilution or enlargement of the potential benefits intended to be made available thereunder, the administrator will make appropriate, proportionate adjustments to:

ministrator win make appropriate, proportionate adjustments to.

the aggregate number and type of shares subject to the Omnibus Plan;

the terms and conditions of outstanding awards (including, without limitation, any applicable performance targets or criteria with respect to such awards);

the grant or exercise price per share of, and the aggregate number of shares subject to, any outstanding awards under the Omnibus Plan; and

the performance goals pertaining to any award.

*Amendment and Termination*. Our Board or the Compensation Committee (with Board approval) may terminate, amend, or modify the Omnibus Plan at any time and from time-to-time. However, we must generally obtain stockholder approval:

to increase the number of shares available under the Omnibus Plan (other than in connection with certain corporate events, as described above);

to expand the group of participants under the Omnibus Plan;

to diminish the protections afforded by the Omnibus Plan with regard to decreasing the exercise price for options or otherwise materially change the vesting or performance requirements of an award; or

to the extent required by applicable law, rule, or regulation (including any applicable stock exchange rule). Notwithstanding the foregoing, no option may be amended to reduce the per share exercise price below the per share exercise price of such option on the grant date and no options may be granted in exchange for, or in connection with, the cancellation or surrender of options having a higher per share exercise price without receiving additional

stockholder approval.

*Expiration Date*. The Omnibus Plan will expire on, and no option or other award may be granted pursuant to the Omnibus Plan after, August 21, 2022. Any award that is outstanding on the expiration date of the Omnibus Plan will remain in force according to the terms of the Omnibus Plan and the applicable award agreement.

Securities Laws and Federal Income Taxes. The Omnibus Plan is designed to comply with certain securities and federal tax laws, including as follows:

*Securities laws*. The Omnibus Plan is intended to conform to all provisions of the Securities Act and the Exchange Act and any and all regulations and rules promulgated by the SEC thereunder, including, without limitation, Rule 16b-3. The Omnibus Plan will be administered, and options will be granted and may be exercised, only in such a manner as to conform to such laws, rules, and regulations.

*Section 409A of the Internal Revenue Code.* Certain awards under the Omnibus Plan may be considered nonqualified deferred compensation for purposes of Section 409A of the Code, which imposes certain additional requirements regarding the payment of deferred compensation. Generally, if at any time during a taxable year a nonqualified deferred compensation plan fails to meet the requirements of Section 409A, or is not operated in accordance with those requirements, all amounts deferred under such plan and all other equity incentive plans for the taxable year and all preceding taxable years, by any participant with respect to whom the failure relates, are includible in gross income for the taxable year to the extent not subject to a substantial risk of forfeiture and not previously included in gross income. If a deferred amount is required to be included in income under Section 409A, the amount also is subject to interest and an additional income tax. The interest imposed is equal to the interest at the underpayment rate plus one percentage point, imposed on the underpayments that would have occurred had the compensation been includible in income for the taxable year when first deferred, or if later, when not subject to a substantial risk of forfeiture. The additional federal income tax is equal to 20% of the compensation required to be included in gross income. In addition, certain states, including California, have laws similar to Section 409A, which impose additional state penalty taxes on such compensation.

*Section 162(m) of the Internal Revenue Code.* In general, under Section 162(m) of the Code, income tax deductions of publicly-held corporations may be limited to the extent total compensation (including, but not limited to, base salary, annual bonus, and income attributable to stock option exercises and other non-qualified benefits) for certain executive officers exceeds \$1,000,000 (less the amount of any excess parachute payments as defined in Section 280G of the Code) in any taxable year of the corporation. However, under Section 162(m), the deduction limit does not apply to certain performance-based compensation established by an independent compensation committee

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that is adequately disclosed to, and approved by, stockholders. In particular, stock options will satisfy the qualified performance-based compensation exception if the awards are made by a qualifying compensation committee of two or more outside directors, the underlying plan sets the maximum number of shares that can be granted to any person within a specified period and the compensation is based solely on an increase in the stock price after the grant date (i.e., the exercise price or base price is greater than or equal to the fair market value of the stock subject to the award on the grant date). Cash performance awards and restricted stock may constitute qualified performance-based compensation for purposes of Section 162(m) if (i) such awards are granted or vest based upon the achievement of one or more pre-established objective performance goals, (ii) the performance goals are established by a qualifying compensation is to be paid, including the performance goals, are disclosed to and approved by stockholders in a separate vote prior to payment, the compensation committee certifies that the performance goals and any other material terms were in fact satisfied.

### Federal Income Tax Consequences Relating to Certain Awards

*Options*. Under present law, an optionee will not recognize any taxable income on the date an NQSO is granted pursuant to the Omnibus Plan. Upon exercise of the option, however, the optionee must recognize, in the year of exercise, compensation taxable as ordinary income in an amount equal to the difference between the option price and the fair market value of Company common stock on the date of exercise. Upon the sale of the shares, any resulting gain or loss will be treated as capital gain or loss. The Company will receive an income tax deduction in its fiscal year in which NQSOs are exercised equal to the amount of ordinary income recognized by those optionees exercising options, and must comply with applicable tax withholding requirements.

ISOs granted under the Omnibus Plan are intended to qualify for favorable tax treatment under Section 422 of the Internal Revenue Code. Under Section 422, an optionee recognizes no taxable income when the option is granted. Further, the optionee generally will not recognize any taxable income when the option is exercised if he or she has at all times from the date of the option's grant until three months before the date of exercise been an employee of the Company. The Company ordinarily is not entitled to any income tax deduction upon the grant or exercise of an incentive stock option. Certain other favorable tax consequences may be available to the optionee if he or she does not dispose of the shares acquired upon the exercise of an incentive stock option for a period of two years from the granting of the option and one year from the receipt of the shares.

*Restricted Stock Awards*. Generally, no income is taxable to the recipient of a restricted stock award in the year that the award is granted. Instead, the recipient will recognize compensation taxable as ordinary income equal to the fair market value of the shares in the year in which the risks of forfeiture restrictions lapse. Alternatively, if a recipient makes an election under Section 83(b) of the Internal Revenue Code, the recipient will, in the year that the restricted stock award is granted, recognize compensation taxable as ordinary income equal to the fair market value of the shares on the date of the award. The Company normally will receive a corresponding deduction equal to the amount of compensation the recipient is required to recognize as ordinary taxable income, and must comply with applicable tax withholding requirements.

*Performance Awards*. A recipient of performance awards will recognize compensation taxable as ordinary income equal to the value of the shares of Company common stock or the cash received, as the case may be, in the year that the recipient receives payment. The Company normally will receive a deduction equal to the amount of compensation the recipient is required to recognize as ordinary taxable income, and must comply with applicable tax withholding requirements.

# **New Plan Benefits**

As of December 31, 2012, the Company had 762 employees and 5 non-employee directors who were eligible to participate in the Omnibus Plan. The amount of future awards will be determined by the Compensation Committee in its discretion. The Omnibus Plan does not require awards in specific amounts or to specific recipients or provide formulae to determine the amount or recipient of awards. As a result, the Company cannot determine the awards that will be made under the Omnibus Plan in the future.

# **VOTE REQUIRED**

The Board recommends that you vote For the approval of the amendment to the Omnibus Plan. Approval of the amendment to the Omnibus Plan requires the affirmative vote of a majority of the shares present in person or represented by proxy and voting on this proposal at the Annual Meeting.

# PROPOSAL 4 APPROVAL OF PERFORMANCE GOALS IN THE 2012 OMNIBUS AWARD PLAN

# **Background and Purpose**

The Board approved and now submits for stockholder approval the material terms of the performance-based goals specified in the Omnibus Plan intended to qualify for tax deductions under Section 162(m) of the Internal Revenue Code (the Code ). Stockholder approval of the material terms of performance-based goals set forth in the Omnibus Plan enables benefits intended to be performance based compensation paid under the Omnibus Plan to qualify for tax deductions under Section 162(m) of the Code.

Section 162(m) of the Code generally limits the corporate tax deduction for compensation paid to executive officers that is not performance-based to \$1,000,000 per executive officer. Performance based compensation meeting certain requirements is not counted against the \$1,000,000 limit and generally remains fully deductible for tax purposes. One of the requirements for compensation to be considered performance-based under the tax laws is that the Company must obtain stockholder approval every five years of the material terms of performance goals for such compensation. In accordance with Internal Revenue Service rules, the material terms that the stockholders approve constitute the framework for the Compensation Committee to establish programs and awards under which compensation provided by the Company can qualify as performance based compensation for purposes of the tax laws. Stockholder approval of the general performance goals specified in the Omnibus Plan and the maximum amounts that may be awarded under the Omnibus Plan, even without stockholder approval of specific targeted levels of performance, will qualify the incentive awards under the Omnibus Plan as performance based compensation. We anticipate that stockholder approval of performance based goals in the Omnibus Plan will allow tax deductibility of performance based awards granted under the Omnibus Plan for the next five years, at which point Section 162(m) will require further stockholder approval of these goals.

# Performance Goals Specified in the Omnibus Plan

As defined in the tax rules, stockholders must approve each of the material terms of performance goals if a company is to obtain tax deductions for the specified forms of performance based compensation for the covered executives whose total annual compensation exceeds \$1 million, including (i) the employees eligible to receive compensation, (ii) a description of the business criteria on which the performance goals are based and (iii) the maximum amount of compensation that can be paid to an employee under the arrangement. Each of these aspects is discussed below.

*Employees covered*. The employees whose compensation would be subject to the performance goals would include our executive officers, including those officers required to file reports under Section 16 of the Exchange Act. Although the tax laws only limit deductibility for compensation paid to the chief executive officer and the three most highly paid executive officers (not including the chief executive officer and the principal financial officer), we may apply the performance goals more broadly to one or more other participants in the Omnibus Plan in the event that any of them becomes a person covered by Section 162(m) of the Code during the time that they hold an award granted under the Omnibus Plan.

*Business criteria in the performance goals*. With respect to any awards intended to be performance-based compensation, we intend to use one or more of the following business criteria as the basis of the performance goals, including but not limited to net income; income from continuing operations; stockholder return; stock price

appreciation; earnings per share (including diluted earnings per share); net operating profit (including after-tax); revenue growth; organic sales growth; return on equity; return on investment; return on invested capital (including after-tax); earnings before interest, taxes, depreciation and amortization; operating income; operating margin; market share; return on sales; asset reduction; cost reduction; return on equity; cash flow (including free cash flow); bookings; and new product releases.

*Individual maximum amounts*. The maximum number of shares of common stock that may be granted as restricted stock or subject to options to any participant in the aggregate in any calendar year shall not exceed 2,000,000, subject to adjustment for certain events as set forth in the Omnibus Plan. This limit also applies to options and restricted stock where the value of the award is based on the fair market value of the Company s shares. The maximum cash award that may be issued to any participant in any calendar year shall be (i) \$5,000,000 or (ii) 300% of the participant s base salary in effect as of the beginning of the applicable performance period, whichever is greater.

The Compensation Committee has established business measurements and maximum amounts that it considers appropriate in light of foreseeable contingencies and future business conditions. If approved by the stockholders, these performance goals would not limit our right to award or pay other or additional forms of compensation (including, but not limited to, salary, or other stock-based awards under the Omnibus Plan) to our employees. These other forms of compensation may be paid regardless of whether or not the performance goals are achieved in any future year, and whether or not payment of such other forms of compensation would be tax deductible, but we intend to design this compensation so as not to affect the deductibility of arrangements intended to qualify as performance-based compensation under the tax laws.

# Material Terms of the Omnibus Plan

The material terms of the Omnibus Plan are set forth in Proposal 3.

# **VOTE REQUIRED**

The Board recommends that you vote For the approval of the performance goals in the Omnibus Plan. Approval of the performance goals in the Omnibus Plan requires the affirmative vote of a majority of the shares present in person or represented by proxy and voting on this proposal at the Annual Meeting.

# PROPOSAL 5 ADVISORY VOTE ON EXECUTIVE COMPENSATION

The Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act and Section 14A of the Exchange Act require that we provide our stockholders with the opportunity to vote on a nonbinding advisory basis regarding the compensation of our named executive officers as disclosed in this proxy statement in accordance with the compensation disclosure rules of the SEC.

We seek to closely align the interests of our named executive officers with the interests of our stockholders. We designed our compensation program to reward our named executive officers for their individual performance and contributions to our overall business objectives, and for achieving and surpassing the financial goals set by our Compensation Committee and our Board.

The vote on this resolution is not intended to address any specific element of compensation. Instead, the vote relates to the overall compensation of our named executive officers, as described in this proxy statement in accordance with the compensation disclosure rules of the SEC.

Accordingly, we ask our stockholders to vote on the following resolution at the Annual Meeting:

RESOLVED, that the Company s stockholders approve, on an advisory basis, the compensation of the named executive officers, as disclosed in the Company s Proxy Statement for the 2013 Annual Meeting of Stockholders pursuant to the compensation disclosure rules of the Securities and Exchange Commission, including the 2012 Summary Compensation Table and the other related tables and disclosure.

While the Board and especially the Compensation Committee intend to carefully consider the results of the vote on this proposal when making future decisions regarding executive compensation, the vote is not binding on the Company or the Board and is advisory in nature. To the extent there is any significant vote against the compensation of our named executive officers in this Proposal 5, the Compensation Committee will evaluate what actions may be necessary to address our stockholders concerns.

# **EXECUTIVE COMPENSATION**

# **Compensation Discussion and Analysis**

This section discusses our policies and decisions with respect to the compensation of our executive officers and employees who are named in the Summary Compensation Table and the most important factors relevant to an analysis of these policies and decisions. We expect that our executive compensation philosophy as a publicly traded company will differ from our historical compensation philosophy as a result of our Compensation Committee s continued review and evaluation of our compensation philosophy and structure. The named executive officers to whom this discussion applies are:

> Robert A. Rucker, chief executive officer; Timothy Clayton, chief financial officer; Joseph Kinder, senior vice president operations; Carl Randazzo, senior vice president retail; and

Leigh M. Behrman, vice president human resources and compliance.

All of our named executive officers, with the exception of Mr. Clayton, served as executive officers during the entire 2012 fiscal year. Mr. Clayton was appointed Chief Financial Officer in August 2012 in connection with the consummation of the Business Combination. Between June 2012 and August 2012, he served as a financial consultant to the Company.

### **Overview**

We recognize that our ability to excel depends on the integrity, knowledge, imagination, skill, diversity, and teamwork of our employees. To this end, we strive to create an environment of mutual respect, encouragement, and teamwork that rewards commitment and performance and that is responsive to the needs of our employees. The principles and objectives of our compensation and benefits programs for our employees generally, and for our named executive officers specifically, are to:

align compensation incentives with our corporate strategies, business, and financial objectives and the long-term interests of our stockholders;

motivate and reward executives whose knowledge, skills, and performance ensure our continued success; and ensure that total compensation is fair, reasonable, and competitive.

Historically, the compensation for our named executive officers has consisted of (i) base salary, (ii) performance bonus, (iii) phantom equity units, (iii) perquisites and health and welfare benefits, and (v) 401(k) plan retirement savings opportunities. Effective immediately prior to the consummation of the Business Combination, we terminated our Deferred Compensation Plan, pursuant to which we previously granted phantom equity units. We anticipate that we will make a lump-sum cash payment to each former holder of phantom equity units, including certain of our named executive officers, on August 20, 2013, in full satisfaction of all phantom equity units previously held by such individuals.

Effective upon consummation of the Business Combination, we adopted an equity award plan, and made grants to certain of our named executive officers thereunder. For a further description of the plan, see Executive Compensation Discussion and Analysis Executive Compensation Program Components 2012 Omnibus Award Plan beginning on page 28 of this proxy statement.

Each of the primary elements of our executive compensation program are discussed in more detail below. While we have identified particular compensation objectives that each element of executive compensation serves, our compensation programs are designed to be flexible and complementary and to collectively serve all of the executive compensation objectives described above. Accordingly, whether or not specifically mentioned below, we believe that each individual element, to some extent, serves each of our objectives. Further, while each of our executive officers has not been, and may not be, compensated with all individual compensation elements, we believe that the compensation provided to each individual executive officer is, and will be, consistent with the overall compensation philosophy and objectives set forth above.

### **Compensation Determination Process**

As we transition from being a privately held company to a publicly traded company, we will evaluate our philosophy and compensation programs as circumstances require and, at a minimum, we will review executive compensation annually. As part of this review process, we expect to apply the values and the objectives outlined above, together with consideration for the levels of compensation that we would be willing to pay to ensure that our compensation remains competitive and that it is meeting our retention objectives in light of the cost to us if we were required to replace a key employee.

Historically, The Tile Shop s board of managers did not review anonymous private company compensation surveys in setting the compensation of our named executive officers. In the future, we anticipate that our Compensation Committee will determine executive compensation, at least in part, by reference to the compensation information for the executives of a peer group of comparable companies, although no such peer group has yet been determined.

Additionally, our Compensation Committee plans to engage a compensation consultant in fiscal year 2013 to provide market data on a peer group of companies in our industry, and we intend to review this information and other information obtained by the members of our Compensation Committee to help ensure that our compensation program is competitive. We plan to periodically update the information provided by this compensation consultant. We anticipate that our Compensation Committee may make adjustments in executive compensation levels in the future as a result of this more formal market comparison process.

The compensation levels of our named executive officers reflect, to a significant degree, the varying roles and responsibilities of such executives. As a result of the assessment by our Board of Robert Rucker s roles and responsibilities, there is and has been a significant compensation differential between his compensation levels and those of our other named executive officers.

### **Executive Compensation Program Components**

*Base Salary*. Base salaries of our named executive officers were initially established through arm s-length negotiation at the time the executive was hired, taking into account such executive s qualifications, experience, and prior salary. Base salaries of our named executive officers are approved and reviewed periodically by our Chief Executive Officer, and in the case of our Chief Executive Officer s base salary, by our Board, and adjustments to base salaries are based on the scope of an executive s responsibilities, individual contribution, prior experience, and sustained performance. Decisions regarding salary increases may take into account the executive officer s current salary, equity or equity-linked interests, and the amounts paid to an executive officer s peers within our Company. In making decisions regarding salary increases, we may also draw upon the experience of members of our board of directors with other companies. Base salaries are also reviewed in the case of promotions or other significant changes in responsibility. No formulaic base salary increases are provided to our named executive officers. This strategy is consistent with our intent of offering base salaries that are cost-effective while remaining competitive.

The actual base salaries earned by all of our named executive officers in 2012 are set forth in the Summary Compensation Table.

In anticipation of the consummation of the Business Combination, we entered into offer letter agreements with each of Messrs. Rucker, Clayton, Kinder, Randazzo, and Behrman, which provide for annual base salaries of \$303,991,
\$200,000, \$200,000, \$200,000, and \$119,000, respectively. Pursuant to the terms of his offer letter, Mr. Rucker s base salary increased to \$500,000 effective January 1, 2013. For a further description of these offer letter agreements, see Executive Compensation Offer Letter Agreements beginning on page 32 of this proxy statement.

2012 Omnibus Award Plan. In June 2012, our Board and stockholders adopted an equity award plan, which became effective upon the consummation of the Business Combination. The principal purpose of the equity award plan is to attract, retain, and motivate selected employees, consultants, and directors. As initially adopted, the equity award plan provided for stock-based compensation awards. In February 2013, the Compensation Committee and the Board amended the equity award plan to authorize grants of performance-based awards. At the same time, the plan was renamed the 2012 Omnibus Award Plan (the Omnibus Plan ). The Compensation Committee of our Board administers the Omnibus Plan, subject to the right of our Board to assume authority for administration or delegate such authority to another committee of the Board. Awards under the Omnibus Plan may be granted to individuals who are then our officers, employees, directors, or consultants or are the officers, employees, directors, or consultants of our subsidiaries.

Under the Omnibus Plan, 2,500,000 shares of our common stock were initially reserved for issuance pursuant to a variety of stock-based compensation awards, including stock options and restricted stock awards. As initially adopted, the number of shares initially reserved for issuance or transfer pursuant to awards under the Omnibus Plan would increase on the first day of each calendar year beginning in 2013 and ending in 2022, in an amount equal to the least of (A) 2,500,000 shares, (B) six percent (6%) of the shares of common stock outstanding (on an as-converted basis) on the last day of the immediately preceding calendar year, and (C) such smaller number of shares of common stock as determined by our Board. In February 2013, the Compensation Committee and the Board acknowledged that 2,500,000 shares of common stock were added to the Omnibus Plan reserve effective January 1, 2013 in accordance

with the automatic share increase provision, and amended the Omnibus Plan to eliminate the automatic share increase for subsequent years.

In the event of a change of control, as such term is defined in the Omnibus Plan, the administrator may, in its sole discretion, accelerate vesting of awards issued under the Omnibus Plan such that 100% of any such award may become vested and exercisable. Additionally, the administrator has complete discretion to structure one or more awards under the Omnibus Plan to provide that such awards will become vested and exercisable on an accelerated basis. The administrator may also make appropriate adjustments to awards under the

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Omnibus Plan and is authorized to provide for the acceleration, termination, assumption, substitution, or conversion of such awards in the event of a change of control or certain other unusual or nonrecurring events or transactions.

As of December 31, 2012, 2,046,000 shares of common stock were subject to outstanding awards pursuant to the Omnibus Plan.

The types of awards we intend to grant under the Omnibus Plan are as follows:

*Cash Performance Awards*. Historically, annual cash bonuses have been awarded to our named executive officers when The Tile Shop s board of managers or our Chief Executive Officer determined that such bonuses were merited in light of corporate performance.

Mr. Rucker has historically been awarded an annual cash bonus in an amount sufficient to provide Mr. Rucker with total actual after-tax bonus compensation equal to 3% of our net income, inclusive of the bonus compensation and associated tax adjustment payable to Mr. Rucker, for the corresponding period. Our other named executive officers have historically been awarded annual cash bonuses in an amount determined by our Chief Executive Officer and approved by our Board or The Tile Shop s board of managers, as applicable, reflecting (i) our annual operating performance, (ii) our year-over-year operating growth, (iii) attainment of individual and corporate goals, and (iv) other discretionary factors deemed relevant.

The actual cash bonuses earned by all of our named executive officers in 2012 are set forth in the Summary Compensation Table.

In February 2013, the Board and the Compensation Committee of the Board adopted specific performance targets and payout levels for each executive officer for fiscal year 2013. Mr. Rucker is eligible to earn target cash bonus compensation equal to 100% of his base salary and each of Messrs. Clayton, Kinder, Randazzo, and Behrman is eligible to earn target cash bonus compensation equal to 50% of their base salary, based on our Adjusted EBITDA for the year. The target bonus compensation is payable if we achieve the Adjusted EBITDA target set forth in our budget. Each of Messrs. Rucker, Clayton, Kinder, Randazzo, and Behrman is entitled to receive a partial bonus payment if we achieve at least 85% of our budgeted Adjusted EBITDA, and a bonus of up to double the target bonus amount if we achieve 115% of our budgeted Adjusted EBITDA and attain targeted sales goals. The Compensation Committee reviews and certifies performance following the end of each fiscal year.

*Equity and Equity-Linked Incentives*. Historically, in order to align the interests of our named executive officers with those of our stockholders, we granted certain of our employees and each of our named executive officers, other than Mr. Rucker, phantom equity units pursuant our Deferred Compensation Plan that were payable in cash based on the appreciation in the value of The Tile Shop s Common Units. Due to Mr. Rucker s significant beneficial equity interest in The Tile Shop, The Tile Shop s board of managers determined that it was not necessary or appropriate to grant Mr. Rucker any such phantom equity units. These phantom equity units were fully-vested upon grant and payable to the holders thereof upon the earlier of (i) the tenth or fifteenth anniversary of the date of grant, as applicable, or (ii)

immediately prior to a change of control of The Tile Shop. Upon the occurrence of either such event, the holder of each unit of phantom equity is entitled to receive, in respect of each such unit, a payment in cash equal to the change in the fair market value of The Tile Shop s Common Units between the date of grant and (a) the last day of the fiscal year immediately preceding the tenth or fifteenth anniversary of the date of grant, as applicable, or (b) the date of the

change of control, as applicable. At all times from January 1, 2009 until the termination of our Deferred Compensation Plan in connection with the consummation of the Business Combination, Messrs. Behrman, Kinder, and Randazzo held 100,000, 300,000, and 300,000 phantom equity units of The Tile Shop, respectively. Effective immediately prior to the consummation of the Business Combination, we terminated our Deferred Compensation

Plan. We anticipate that we will make a lump-sum cash payment to each former holder of phantom equity units, including Messrs. Behrman, Kinder, and Randazzo, on August 20, 2013, in full satisfaction of all phantom equity units previously held by such individuals. We expect to make payments to Messrs. Behrman, Kinder, and Randazzo of \$824,000, \$2,060,000, and \$2,060,000, respectively, on such date.

Going forward, we intend to use equity incentive awards pursuant to our Omnibus Plan to continue to link the interests of our named executive officers with those of our stockholders. The Omnibus Plan provides

that the administrator may grant or issue stock options and restricted stock or any combination thereof. Stock options may be either nonqualified stock options or incentive stock options. Vesting of these equity incentive awards, which we expect to be primarily in the form of stock option grants for our named executive officers other than Mr. Rucker, will be based in whole or in part on continued employment to encourage the retention of our named executive officers through the vesting period of the awards, and, in some cases, partially based on the annual appreciation of our common stock. In determining the size of the initial equity awards to our named executive officers, our Compensation Committee considered a number of internal factors, such as the relative job scope, the value of outstanding equity awards, individual performance history, prior contributions to us, and the size of prior awards, as well as external factors such as the levels of unvested equity awards held by our executive officers in relation to their peers at comparable companies. The Compensation Committee also intends to consider the foregoing factors for future awards.

The equity grants made to our named executive officers in 2012 are set forth in the Grants of Plan Based Awards in Fiscal Year 2012 table and are discussed in the Equity Grants section.

We do not have any securities ownership requirements for our named executive officers.

*Retirement Savings*. All of our full-time employees, including our named executive officers, are eligible to participate in The Tile Shop 401(k) Retirement Plan. Employees may elect to reduce their current compensation by up to the statutorily prescribed annual limit, which was \$17,000 in 2012, and to have the amount of this reduction contributed to the 401(k) plan. In 2012 and 2011, we made a matching contribution of \$0.25 for every \$1.00 that each applicable employee contributed to the 401(k) plan, up to a maximum of 5% of such employee salary. Each year, this matching contribution vests as to 20% of the aggregate matching contributions for such employee, such that all previous and future matching contributions will be vested after the employee has been employed by us for a period of five years.

*Perquisites*. From time-to-time, we have provided certain of our named executive officers with perquisites that we believe are reasonable. We do not view perquisites as a significant element of our comprehensive compensation structure, but do believe they can be useful in attracting, motivating, and retaining executive talent. We believe that these additional benefits may assist our executive officers in performing their duties and provide time efficiencies for our executive officers in appropriate circumstances, and may consider providing additional perquisites in the future. There are no material perquisites to our named executive officers that are contractual obligations pursuant to written agreement. All future practices regarding perquisites will be approved and subject to periodic review by our Compensation Committee.

*Tax Considerations*. Our Board considers the potential effects of Section 162(m) of the Code on the compensation paid to our executive officers. Section 162(m) disallows a tax deduction for any publicly-held corporation for individual compensation exceeding \$1.0 million in any taxable year for the Chief Executive Officer and each of the next three most highly compensated executive officers (other than the Chief Financial Officer, if any), unless the compensation is performance based or based on another available exemption. Prior to being a publicly-held corporation, The Tile Shop s board of managers did not take the deductibility limit imposed by Section 162(m) into consideration in setting compensation. Additionally, the restricted stock granted to Mr. Rucker in August 2012 was not performance based. Assuming approval by stockholders of Proposals 3 and 4 herein, we expect that our Compensation Committee will continue, where reasonably practicable, to seek to qualify the variable compensation paid to our executive officers for an exemption from the deductibility limitations of Section 162(m). Even if Proposals 3 and 4 are not approved, stock options will satisfy the qualified performance-based compensation exception if the awards are made by a qualifying compensation committee of two or more outside directors, the underlying plan sets the maximum number of shares that can be granted to any person within a specified period and the compensation is

based solely on an increase in the stock price after the grant date (i.e., the exercise price or base price is greater than or equal to the fair market value of the stock subject to the award on the grant date). In approving the amount and form of compensation for our executive officers in the future, our Compensation Committee will consider all elements of the cost to us of providing such compensation, including the potential impact of Section 162(m). However, our Compensation Committee may, in its judgment, authorize compensation payments that do not comply with the exemptions in Section 162(m) when it believes that such payments are appropriate to attract and retain executive talent.

*Taxation of Parachute Payments and Deferred Compensation*. We did not provide any executive officer, including any named executive officer, with a gross-up or other reimbursement payment for any tax liability that he or she might owe as a result of the application of Sections 409A of the Code during 2012, and we have not agreed, nor are otherwise obligated, to provide any executive officer with such a gross-up or other reimbursement. Sections 280G and 4999 of the Code provide that executive officers and directors who hold significant equity interests and certain other service providers may be subject to an excise tax if they receive payments or benefits in connection with a change of control that exceeds certain prescribed limits, and that we, or a successor, may forfeit a deduction on the amounts subject to this additional tax. Section 409A of the Code also imposes additional significant taxes on the individual in the event that an executive officer, director, or other service provider received deferred compensation that does not meet the requirements of Section 409A of the Code.

# **Compensation Committee Report**

The Compensation Committee has reviewed and discussed the Compensation Discussion and Analysis with management. Based upon this review and discussion, the Compensation Committee recommended to the Board that the Compensation Discussion and Analysis be included in this proxy statement and in our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2012.

Compensation Committee of the Board: Todd Krasnow, *Chairman* Peter J. Jacullo III William E. Watts

# **Summary Compensation Table for Fiscal 2012**

The following table provides information regarding the compensation earned during the fiscal years ended December 31, 2012 and December 31, 2011 by each of the named executive officers for each year in which each was a named executive officer.

	Fiscal Year	Salary (\$)	Non-Equity			
Name and Principal Position			Stock Bonus Awards	Optidncentive	All Other	. Total
				Awa <b>Rla</b> n	Compensat	tion
			(\$) $($)^{(1)}$ (\$)^{(1)}Compensation(\$)^{(2)}			(\$)
				(\$)		
Robert A. Rucker	2012	303,991	2,762,500	1,936,983	847,075	5,821,278