

GLADSTONE COMMERCIAL CORP

Form 10-K

February 14, 2018

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

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FORM 10-K

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(Mark One)

ANNUAL REPORT PURSUANT TO SECTION 13 OR 15(d) OF THE SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934  
For the fiscal year ended December 31, 2017

OR

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

For the transition period from \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_  
Commission File Number 001-33097

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GLADSTONE COMMERCIAL CORPORATION  
(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

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Maryland 02-0681276  
(State or other jurisdiction of (I.R.S. Employer  
incorporation or organization) Identification No.)  
1521 Westbranch Drive, Suite 100 22102  
McLean, Virginia (Address of principal executive offices) (Zip Code)  
(703) 287-5800  
(Registrant's telephone number, including area code)

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

(Title of each Class)	(Name of each exchange on which registered)
Common Stock, \$0.001 par value per share	Nasdaq Global Select Market
7.75% Series A Cumulative Redeemable Preferred Stock, par value \$0.001 per share	Nasdaq Global Select Market
7.50% Series B Cumulative Redeemable Preferred Stock, par value \$0.001 per share	Nasdaq Global Select Market
7.00% Series D Cumulative Redeemable Preferred Stock, par value \$0.001 per share	Nasdaq Global Select Market

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

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

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

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

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant has submitted electronically and posted on its corporate Web site, if any, every Interactive Data File required to be submitted and posted pursuant to Rule 405 of Regulation S-T during the preceding 12 months (or for such shorter period that the registrant was required to submit and post such files). YES  NO

Indicate by check mark if disclosure of delinquent filers pursuant to Item 405 of Regulation S-K is not contained herein, and will not be contained, to the best of registrant's knowledge, in definitive proxy or information statements incorporated by reference in Part III of this Form 10-K or any amendment to this Form 10-K.

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

Large accelerated filer <input type="checkbox"/>	Accelerated filer <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Non-accelerated filer <input type="checkbox"/> (Do not check if a smaller reporting company)	Smaller reporting company <input type="checkbox"/>
	Emerging growth company <input type="checkbox"/>

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

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant is a shell company (as defined in Rule 12 b-2 of the Act). YES  NO

The aggregate market value of the voting common stock held by non-affiliates of the Registrant on June 30, 2017, based on the closing price on that date of \$21.79 on the Nasdaq Global Select Market, was \$548,491,931. For the purposes of calculating this amount only, all directors and executive officers of the Registrant

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and entities controlled by our directors and executive officers have been treated as affiliates. There were 28,420,110 shares of the Registrant's common stock, \$0.001 par value per share, outstanding as of February 14, 2018.

Documents Incorporated by Reference: Portions of the Registrant's Proxy Statement, to be filed no later than April 30, 2018, relating to the Registrant's 2018 Annual Meeting of Stockholders, are incorporated by reference into Part III of this Annual Report on Form 10-K.

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Forward-Looking Statements

Our disclosure and analysis in this Annual Report on Form 10-K ("Form 10-K"), and the documents that are incorporated by reference herein, contain "forward-looking statements" within the meaning of Section 27A of the Securities Act of 1933, as amended (the "Securities Act"), and Section 21E of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended (the "Exchange Act"). We intend such forward-looking statements to be covered by the safe harbor provisions for forward-looking statements contained in the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995 and include this statement for purposes of complying with these safe harbor provisions. Forward-looking statements relate to expectations, beliefs, projections, future plans and strategies, anticipated events or trends concerning matters that are not historical facts. These forward-looking statements include information about possible or assumed future events, including, among other things, discussion and analysis of our future financial condition, results of operations and funds from operations ("FFO"), our strategic plans and objectives, cost management, occupancy and leasing rates and trends, liquidity and ability to refinance our indebtedness as it matures, anticipated capital expenditures (and access to capital) required to complete projects, amounts of anticipated cash distributions to our stockholders in the future and other matters. Words such as "anticipates," "expects," "intends," "plans," "will," "should," "believes," "seeks," "estimates," "may" and variations of these words and similar expressions are intended to identify forward-looking statements, though not all forward-looking statements contain these words. These statements are not guarantees of future performance and are subject to risks, uncertainties and other factors, some of which are beyond our control, are difficult to predict and could cause actual results to differ materially from those expressed or forecasted in the forward-looking statements. Statements regarding the following subjects, among others, are forward-looking by their nature:

- future re-leasing efforts;
- our business and financing strategy;
- our ability to continue to implement our business plan;
- pending transactions;
- our projected operating results and anticipated acquisitions;
- our ability to obtain future financing arrangements;
- estimates relating to our future distributions;
- our understanding of our competition and our ability to compete effectively;
- future market and industry trends;
- future interest and insurance rates;
- estimates of our future operating expenses, including payments to our Adviser (as defined herein) under the terms of our Advisory Agreement (as defined herein);
- the impact of technology on our operations and business, including the risk of cyber-attacks;
- projected capital expenditures; and
- future use of the proceeds of our Credit Facility (as defined herein), mortgage notes payable, future stock offerings and other future capital resources, if any.

Forward-looking statements involve inherent uncertainty and may ultimately prove to be incorrect or false. You are cautioned not to place undue reliance on forward-looking statements. Except as otherwise may be required by law, we undertake no obligation to update or revise forward-looking statements to reflect changed assumptions, the occurrence of unanticipated events or actual operating results. Our actual results could differ materially from those anticipated in these forward-looking statements as a result of various factors, including, but not limited to:

- general volatility of the capital markets and the market price of our common and preferred stock;
- failure to maintain our qualification as a real estate investment trust ("REIT") and in the risk of changing laws that affect REITs;
- risks associated with negotiation and consummation of pending and future transactions;

- changes in our business strategy;
- the adequacy of our cash reserves and working capital;
- our failure to successfully integrate and operate acquired properties and operations;
- defaults upon or non-renewal of leases by tenants;
- decreased rental rates or increased vacancy rates;
- the degree and nature of our competition, including other real estate investment companies;
- availability, terms and deployment of capital, including the ability to maintain and borrow under our Credit Facility, arrange for long-term mortgages on our properties, secure additional long-term lines of credit and raise equity capital;
- our Adviser's ability to identify, hire and retain highly-qualified personnel;
- changes in our industry or the general economy;
- changes in real estate and zoning laws and increases in real property tax rates;

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• changes in governmental regulations, tax rates and similar matters;  
• environmental uncertainties and risks related to natural disasters; and  
• the loss of any of our key officers, such as Mr. David Gladstone, our chairman and chief executive officer, Mr. Terry Lee Brubaker, our vice chairman and chief operating officer, or Mr. Robert Cutlip, our president.

This list of risks and uncertainties, however, is only a summary of some of the most important factors to us and is not intended to be exhaustive. You should carefully review the risks set forth herein under the caption “Item 1A. Risk Factors.” New factors may also emerge from time to time that could have a material adverse effect on our business.

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PART I

Item 1. Business.

Overview

Gladstone Commercial Corporation (which we refer to as “we,” “us,” or the “Company”) is a REIT, that was incorporated under the General Corporation Law of the State of Maryland on February 14, 2003. We focus on acquiring, owning, and managing primarily office and industrial properties. On a selective basis, we may make long term industrial and office mortgage loans; however we do not have any mortgage loans currently outstanding. Our properties are geographically diversified and our tenants cover a broad cross section of business sectors and range in size from small to very large private and public companies. We actively communicate with buyout funds, real estate brokers and other third parties to locate properties for potential acquisition or to provide mortgage financing in an effort to build our portfolio. We target secondary growth markets that possess favorable economic growth trends, diversified industries, and growing population and employment.

We have historically entered into, and intend in the future to enter into, purchase agreements for real estate having net leases with terms of approximately seven to 15 years with built-in rental rate increases. Under a net lease, the tenant is required to pay most or all operating, maintenance, repair and insurance costs and real estate taxes with respect to the leased property.

As of February 14, 2018:

- we owned 99 properties totaling 11.5 million square feet (all references to the number of properties and square footage are unaudited herein and throughout Notes) of rentable space in 24 states;
- our occupancy rate was 97.9%;
- the weighted average remaining term of our mortgage debt was 6.5 years and the weighted average interest rate was 4.6%; and
- the average remaining lease term of the portfolio was 7.5 years.

We conduct substantially all of our activities, including the ownership of all of our properties, through Gladstone Commercial Limited Partnership, a Delaware limited partnership, which we refer to as our Operating Partnership. We control our Operating Partnership through our ownership of GCLP Business Trust II, a Massachusetts business trust, which is the general partner of our Operating Partnership, and of GCLP Business Trust I, a Massachusetts business trust, which currently holds all of the limited partnership units of our Operating Partnership. Our Operating Partnership may issue limited partnership units from time to time in exchange for industrial and office real property; however, no units have been issued since inception. Limited partners who hold limited partnership units in our Operating Partnership for one year will generally be entitled to cause us to redeem these units for cash or, at our election, shares of our common stock on a one-for-one basis.

Our Operating Partnership is the sole member of Gladstone Commercial Lending, LLC, which we refer to as Gladstone Commercial Lending. Gladstone Commercial Lending is a Delaware limited liability company that was formed to hold any real estate mortgage loans.

Our business is managed by our external adviser, Gladstone Management Corporation (the "Adviser"). Gladstone Administration, LLC (the "Administrator"), provides administrative services to us. Both our Adviser and our Administrator are affiliates of ours and each other.

Our Investment Objectives and Our Strategy

Our principal investment objectives are to generate income from rental properties and, to a much lesser extent, mortgage loans, which we use to fund our continuing operations and to pay monthly cash distributions to our stockholders. Our strategy is to invest in and own a diversified portfolio of leased properties (primarily office and industrial) that we believe will produce stable cash flow and increase in value. We may sell some of our real estate assets when our Adviser determines that doing so would be advantageous to us and our stockholders. We also expect to occasionally make mortgage loans secured by income-producing office or industrial real estate, which loans may have some form of equity participation. We do not have any mortgage loans currently outstanding.

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In addition to cash on hand and cash from operations, we use funds from various other sources to finance our acquisitions and operations, including equity, our Credit Facility (as defined herein), mortgage financing and other sources that may become available from time to time. We believe that moderate leverage is prudent and we aspire to become an investment grade borrower over time. We intend to primarily use non-recourse mortgage financing that will allow us to limit our loss exposure on any property to the amount of equity invested in such property.

In addition to leverage, we were active in the equity markets during 2017 by issuing shares of common stock and preferred stock under our at-the-market programs ("ATM Programs"), pursuant to our open market sale agreements with Cantor Fitzgerald & Co. ("Cantor Fitzgerald"). We also issued common stock through one overnight offering.

### Investment Policies

#### Types of Investments

#### Overview

We intend to earn substantially all of our revenues from the ownership of income-producing real property or, to a much lesser extent, mortgage loans secured by real property. We expect that a majority of our investments will continue to be structured as net leases that require the tenant to pay most or all of the operating costs, costs of maintenance and repair, insurance and real estate taxes on the property. However, if a net lease would have an adverse impact on a potential tenant, or we assume a lease with a different existing structure in place, we may structure our investment as either a gross or modified gross lease, or as a mortgage loan. Investments are not restricted to geographical areas, but we expect that most of our investments in real estate will continue to be made within the continental United States. Some of our investments may also be made through joint ventures that would permit us to own interests in large properties without restricting the diversity of our portfolio.

We anticipate that we will make substantially all of our investments through our Operating Partnership. Our Operating Partnership may acquire interests in real property or mortgage loans in exchange for the issuance of limited partnership units, for cash or through a combination of both. Units issued by our Operating Partnership generally will be redeemable for cash or, at our election, shares of our common stock on a one-for-one basis. However, we may in the future also conduct some of our business and hold some of our interests in real properties or mortgage loans through one or more wholly-owned subsidiaries that are not owned, directly or indirectly, through our Operating Partnership. We have not issued any limited partnership units to date.

#### Property Acquisitions and Net Leasing

To date, we have purchased a majority of our properties from owners that have leased their properties to non-affiliated tenants, and while we have engaged in some transactions with tenants who have consummated sale-leaseback transactions, these transactions do not comprise the dominant portion of our portfolio. We expect that some of our sale-leaseback transactions will be in conjunction with acquisitions, recapitalizations or other corporate transactions affecting our tenants. In these transactions, we may act as one of several sources of financing by purchasing one or more properties from the tenant and by leasing it on a net basis to the tenant or its successor in interest.

Our portfolio consists primarily of single-tenant office and industrial real property; while we will continue to acquire select multi-tenant office and industrial properties, our primary focus is single-tenant industrial and office properties. Generally, we lease properties to tenants that our Adviser deems creditworthy under leases that will be full recourse obligations of our tenants or their affiliates. We seek to obtain lease terms of approximately seven to 15 years with built-in rental increases.

We have formed relationships with nationally recognized strategic partners to assist us with the management of our properties in each of our markets. These relationships provide local expertise to ensure that our properties are properly maintained and that our tenants have local points of contact to address property issues. This strategy improves our operating efficiencies, increases local market intelligence for the Adviser, and generally does not increase our costs as the local property managers are reimbursed by the tenants in accordance with the lease agreements.

#### Investments in Mortgage Loans

Although we expect to make investments in mortgage loans sparingly, we may elect to structure our investment in a particular property as a mortgage loan secured by the property. We anticipate that most of our lending transactions would be loans secured by industrial or office property or issued in connection with a build-to-suit transaction. Our Adviser will attempt to structure mortgage loans in a manner that would provide us with current income substantially similar to that which we could expect to receive had the investment been structured as a net lease transaction.

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To the extent that we invest in mortgage loans, we will generally originate those loans. However, we may also purchase mortgage loans from banks, collateralized mortgage backed securities ("CMBS") pools or other lenders provided that such transactions are otherwise consistent with our investment objectives. Our Adviser will service the mortgage loans in our portfolio by monitoring the collection of monthly principal and interest payments on our behalf. We do not have any mortgage loans currently outstanding.

### Underwriting Criteria, Due Diligence Process and Negotiating Lease Provisions

We consider underwriting of the real estate and the tenant for the property (or the borrower in the case of a mortgage loan) to be the two most important aspects of evaluating a prospective investment. In analyzing potential acquisitions of properties and leases, our Adviser reviews all aspects of the potential transaction, including tenant and real estate fundamentals, to determine whether potential acquisitions and leases can be structured to satisfy our acquisition criteria. The criteria listed below provide general guideposts that our Adviser may consider when underwriting leases and mortgage loans:

**Credit Evaluation.** Our Adviser evaluates each potential tenant or borrower for its creditworthiness, considering factors such as its rating by a national credit rating agency, if any, management experience, industry position and fundamentals, operating history and capital structure. As of December 31, 2017, 42% of our rental revenues were earned from tenants that were rated by a national credit rating agency. A prospective tenant or borrower that is deemed creditworthy does not necessarily mean that we will consider its property to be "investment grade." Our Adviser seeks tenants and borrowers that range from small businesses, many of which do not have publicly rated debt, to large public companies. Our Adviser's investment professionals have substantial experience in locating and underwriting these types of companies. By leasing properties to these tenants, we believe that we will generally be able to charge rent that is higher than the rent charged to tenants with unleveraged balance sheets and recognized credit, thereby enhancing current return from these properties as compared with properties leased to companies whose credit potential has already been recognized by the market. Furthermore, if a tenant's credit improves, the value of our lease or investment will likely increase (if all other factors affecting value remain unchanged). In evaluating a possible investment, we believe that the creditworthiness of a prospective tenant is normally a more significant factor than the unleased value of the property itself. While our Adviser selects tenants it believes to be creditworthy, tenants are not required to meet any minimum rating established by an independent credit rating agency. Our Adviser's standards for determining whether a particular tenant is creditworthy vary in accordance with a variety of factors relating to specific prospective tenants. The creditworthiness of a tenant or borrower is determined on a tenant-by-tenant and case-by-case basis. Therefore, general standards for creditworthiness cannot be applied.

**Leases with Increasing Rent.** Our Adviser seeks to include a provision in each lease that provides for annual rent escalations over the term of the lease. A majority of our leases contain fixed rental escalations; however certain of our leases are tied to increases in indices, such as the consumer price index.

**Diversification.** Our Adviser attempts to diversify our portfolio to avoid dependence on any one particular tenant, facility type, geographic location or tenant industry. By diversifying our portfolio, our Adviser intends to reduce the adverse effect of a single under-performing investment or a downturn in any particular industry or geographic region. Please see Item 2 of this Form 10-K for a summary of our portfolio by industry and geographic location.

**Property Valuation.** The business prospects and the financial strength of the tenant are important aspects of the evaluation of any sale and leaseback of property, or acquisition of property subject to a net lease, particularly a property that is specifically suited to the needs of the tenant. We generally require quarterly unaudited and annual audited financial statements of the tenant in order to continuously monitor the financial performance of the tenant. Our Adviser evaluates the financial capability of the tenant and its ability to perform per the terms of the lease,

including obtaining certificates of insurance and verifying payment of real estate taxes on an annual basis. Our Adviser may also examine the available operating results of prospective investment properties to determine whether or not projected rental levels are likely to be met. As further described below, our Adviser also evaluates the physical characteristics of a prospective property investment and comparable properties as well as the geographic location of the property in the particular market to ensure that the characteristics are favorable for re-leasing the property at approximately the same or higher rental rate should that necessity arise. Our Adviser then computes the value of the property based on historical and projected operating results. In addition, each property that we propose to purchase is appraised by an independent appraiser. These appraisals may take into consideration, among other things, the terms and conditions of the particular lease transaction and the conditions of the credit markets at the time the purchase is negotiated. We generally limit the purchase price of each acquisition to less than 5% of our consolidated total assets.

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**Properties Important to Tenant Operations.** Our Adviser generally seeks to acquire investment properties that are essential or important to the ongoing operations of the prospective tenant. We believe that these investment properties provide better protection in the event a tenant files bankruptcy, as leases on properties essential or important to the operations of a bankrupt tenant are typically less likely to be rejected in bankruptcy or otherwise terminated.

**Lease Provisions that Enhance and Protect Value.** When appropriate, our Adviser attempts to include provisions in our leases that require our consent to specified tenant activity or require the tenant to satisfy specific operating tests. These provisions may include operational or financial covenants of the tenant, as well as indemnification of us by the tenant against environmental and other contingent liabilities. We believe that these provisions serve to protect our investments from changes in the operating and financial characteristics of a tenant that may impact its ability to satisfy its obligations to us or that could reduce the value of our properties. Our Adviser generally also seeks covenants requiring tenants to receive our consent prior to any change in control of the tenant.

**Credit Enhancement.** Our Adviser may also seek to enhance the likelihood of a tenant's lease obligations being satisfied through a cross-default with other tenant obligations, a letter of credit or a guaranty of lease obligations from each tenant's corporate parent. We believe that this type of credit enhancement, if obtained, provides us with additional financial security.

### Underwriting of the Real Estate and Due Diligence Process

In addition to underwriting the tenant or borrower, our Adviser also underwrites the real estate to be acquired or secured by one of our mortgages. On our behalf, our Adviser performs a due diligence review with respect to each property, such as evaluating the physical condition of a property, zoning and site requirements to ensure the property is in compliance with all zoning regulations as well as an environmental site assessment, in an attempt to determine potential environmental liabilities associated with a property prior to its acquisition, although there can be no assurance that hazardous substances or wastes (as defined by present or future federal or state laws or regulations) will not be discovered on the property after we acquire it. We could incur significant costs related to government regulation and private litigation over environmental matters. See "Risk Factors – We could be exposed to liability and remedial costs related to environmental matters."

Our Adviser also reviews the structural soundness of the improvements on the property and may engage a structural engineer to review multiple aspects of the structures to determine the longevity of each building on the property. This review normally also includes the components of each building, such as the roof, the structure and configuration, the electrical wiring, the heating and air-conditioning system, the plumbing, parking lot and various other aspects such as compliance with state and federal building codes.

Our Adviser also physically inspects the real estate and surrounding real estate as part of determining its value. This aspect of our Adviser's due diligence is aimed at arriving at a valuation of the real estate under the assumption that it would not be rented to the existing tenant. As part of this process, our Adviser may consider one or more of the following items:

The comparable value of similar real estate in the same general area of the prospective property. In this regard, comparable property is difficult to define because each piece of real estate has its own distinct characteristics. But to the extent possible, comparable property in the area that has sold or is for sale will be used to determine if the price to be paid for the property is reasonable. The question of comparable properties' sale prices is particularly relevant if a property might be sold by us at a later date.

An assessment of the relative appropriate nature and flexibility of the building configuration and its ability to be re-leased to other users in a single or multiple tenant arrangement.

•The comparable real estate rental rates for similar properties in the same area of the prospective property.

•Alternative property uses that may offer higher value.

•The replacement cost of the property at current construction prices if it were to be sold.

•The assessed value as determined by the local real estate taxing authority.

In addition, our Adviser supplements its valuation with an independent real estate appraisal in connection with each investment that we consider. When appropriate, our Adviser may engage experts to undertake some or all of the due diligence efforts described above.

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### Use of Leverage

In addition to cash on hand and cash from operations, we use funds from various other sources to finance our acquisitions and operations, including common and preferred equity, our Credit Facility, mortgage financing and other sources that may become available from time to time. We believe that moderate leverage is prudent and we aspire to achieve an investment grade rating over time.

Currently, the majority of our mortgage borrowings are structured as non-recourse to us, with limited exceptions that would trigger recourse to us only upon the occurrence of certain fraud, misconduct, environmental or bankruptcy events. The use of non-recourse financing allows us to limit our exposure to the amount of equity invested in the properties pledged as collateral for our borrowings. Non-recourse financing generally restricts a lender's claim on the assets of the borrower, and as a result, the lender generally may look only to the property securing the debt for its satisfaction. We believe that this financing strategy, to the extent available, protects our other assets. However, we can provide no assurance that non-recourse financing will be available on terms acceptable to us, or at all, and consequently, there may be circumstances where lenders have recourse to our other assets. To a much lesser extent, we use recourse financing. Of the \$447.4 million in mortgage notes payable, net, outstanding as of December 31, 2017, only \$11.7 million is recourse to the Company, or 2.6% of the total amount outstanding.

On August 7, 2013, we procured a senior unsecured revolving credit facility ("Revolver"), with KeyBank National Association (serving as a revolving lender, a letter of credit issuer and an administrative agent) and other syndicated lenders. Our Revolver was initially for \$60.0 million, but was increased to \$85.0 million through subsequent amendments, with the latest amendment occurring on October 27, 2017. On October 5, 2015, we added a \$25.0 million 5-year term loan facility ("Term Loan"). On October 27, 2017, we expanded our Term Loan to \$75.0 million and extended the maturity date to October 27, 2022, and also extended the maturity date of our Revolver through October 27, 2021. The Revolver and the Term Loan are referred to collectively herein as the Credit Facility.

### Conflict of Interest Policy

We have adopted policies to reduce potential conflicts of interest. In addition, our directors are subject to certain provisions of Maryland law that are designed to minimize conflicts. However, we cannot assure you that these policies or provisions of law will reduce or eliminate the influence of these conflicts.

Under our current conflict of interest policy, without the approval of a majority of our independent directors, we will not:

- acquire from or sell any assets or other property to any of our officers, directors or our Adviser's employees, or any entity in which any of our officers, directors or Adviser's employees has an interest of more than 5%;

• borrow from any of our directors, officers or our Adviser's employees, or any entity, in which any of our officers, directors or our Adviser's employees has an interest of more than 5%; or

engage in any other transaction with any of our directors, officers or our Adviser's employees, or any entity in which any of our directors, officers or our Adviser's employees has an interest of more than 5% (except that our Adviser may lease office space in a building that we own, provided that the rental rate under the lease is determined by our independent directors to be at a fair market rate).

Our policy also prohibits us from purchasing any real property owned by or co-investing with our Adviser, any of its affiliates or any business in which our Adviser or any of its subsidiaries have invested, except that we may lease

property to existing and prospective portfolio companies of current or future affiliates, such as our affiliated publicly-traded funds Gladstone Capital Corporation ("Gladstone Capital"), Gladstone Land Corporation ("Gladstone Land") or Gladstone Investment Corporation ("Gladstone Investment"), and other entities advised by our Adviser, so long as that entity does not control the portfolio company and the transaction is approved by both companies' board of directors. If