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

FORM 8-K

CURRENT REPORT

Pursuant to Section 13 or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934

Date of Report (Date of Earliest Event Reported):

December 21, 2006

Opteum Inc.

(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

Maryland

001-32171

72-1571637

(State or other jurisdiction
of incorporation)

(Commission
File Number)

(I.R.S. Employer
Identification No.)

3305 Flamingo Drive, Vero Beach, Florida

32963

(Address of principal executive offices)

(Zip Code)

Registrant's telephone number, including area code:

772-231-1400

Not Applicable

Former name or former address, if changed since last report

Check the appropriate box below if the Form 8-K filing is intended to simultaneously satisfy the filing obligation of the registrant under any of the following provisions:

- Written communications pursuant to Rule 425 under the Securities Act (17 CFR 230.425)
 - Soliciting material pursuant to Rule 14a-12 under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.14a-12)
 - Pre-commencement communications pursuant to Rule 14d-2(b) under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.14d-2(b))
 - Pre-commencement communications pursuant to Rule 13e-4(c) under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.13e-4(c))
-

Item 1.01 Entry into a Material Definitive Agreement.

On December 21, 2006, a Membership Interest Purchase, Option and Investor Rights Agreement (the "Purchase Agreement") was entered into among Opteum Inc., a Maryland corporation ("Opteum"), Opteum Financial Services, LLC, a Delaware limited liability company and wholly-owned subsidiary of Opteum ("OFS") and Citigroup Global Markets Realty Corp., a New York corporation ("Citigroup").

Pursuant to the terms of the Purchase Agreement, on December 21, 2006, Opteum sold to Citigroup Class B non-voting limited liability company membership interests in OFS representing 7.5% of OFS' total issued and outstanding limited liability company membership interests (the "Purchased Membership Interests") in exchange for \$4,125,000 in cash. In addition, Opteum granted Citigroup an option (the "Option") to purchase from Opteum additional Class B non-voting limited liability company membership interests in OFS representing 7.49% of OFS' total issued and outstanding limited liability company membership interests (the "Option Membership Interests") in exchange for \$4,119,500 in cash payable in immediately available funds upon the closing of the exercise of the Option.

Citigroup may exercise the Option at any time on or before December 21, 2007, by delivering a written notice to Opteum. If Citigroup exercises the Option, the parties shall use their best efforts to effect the purchase of the Option Membership Interests not later than ten business days after the date on which Citigroup delivers the exercise notice to Opteum.

If OFS executes a definitive agreement providing for a Change of Control (as defined in Section 1(a) of the Purchase Agreement) prior to December 21, 2007, then Opteum must provide written notice to Citigroup and Citigroup will have fifteen business days from receipt of such notice to notify Opteum of its election to exercise the Option. If such definitive agreement is later terminated, the Option shall be extended to the later of December 21, 2007, or the fifteenth business day following the date the definitive agreement was terminated.

Pursuant to Section 2.7(a) of the Purchase Agreement, Citigroup's Class B non-voting limited liability company membership interests in OFS must be redeemed by Opteum upon the occurrence of any Redemption Event (as defined in Section 2.7(a) of the Purchase Agreement) (collectively, the "Redemption Rights"). Such Redemption Events include any sale of limited liability company membership interests in OFS to any bank, broker-dealer or any affiliate thereof and any Change of Control (as defined in Section 1(a) of the Purchase Agreement) of Opteum or OFS. OFS is required to provide written notice to Citigroup at least fifteen days prior to any Redemption Event.

If a Redemption Event involves a sale of limited liability company membership interests in OFS to any bank, broker-dealer or any affiliate thereof and Opteum continues to beneficially own, immediately after the effective time of such transaction voting membership interests representing more than fifty percent (50%) of the voting power of OFS' outstanding membership interests necessary to elect a majority of OFS' board of managers or membership interests representing more than fifty percent (50%) of the economic equity represented by OFS' outstanding membership interests, then Opteum must redeem Citigroup's Class B membership interests in OFS at a price equal to the greater of (x) the pro rata value of Citigroup's Class B membership interests in OFS based upon the valuation placed upon 100% of OFS' total issued and outstanding membership interests in the contemplated transaction and (y) the pro rata value of Citigroup's Class B membership interests in OFS based upon a \$55,000,000 valuation of 100% of OFS' total issued and outstanding membership interests. If a Redemption Event involves a Change of Control of OFS, Opteum must redeem Citigroup's Class B membership interests in OFS at a price equal to the pro rata value of Citigroup's Class B membership interests in OFS based upon the valuation placed upon 100% of OFS' total issued and outstanding membership interests in the contemplated transaction. If a Redemption Event involves a Change of Control of Opteum, Opteum must redeem Citigroup's Class B membership interests in OFS at a price equal to the pro rata value of Citigroup's Class B membership interests in OFS based upon the valuation placed upon 100% of OFS' total issued and outstanding membership interests as determined by one or more independent third-party appraisers.

If OFS wishes to sell new limited liability company membership interests that would not result in a Change of Control or Redemption Event, Citigroup has the right (an "Anti-Dilution Right") to purchase such portion of such newly issued limited liability company membership interests, on the same terms and conditions as proposed in connection with such new issuance, sufficient to maintain its ownership percentage in OFS at the same level as it was immediately prior to the proposed new issuance. Also, unless a Redemption Event has occurred, if Opteum enters into a definitive agreement providing for the sale of any of its Class A membership interests in OFS to an unaffiliated third party and such third party is not a bank, broker-dealer or any affiliate thereof, then Opteum has the right (a "Drag-Along Right") to force Citigroup to sell up to 100% of Citigroup's Class B membership interests in OFS at a price equal to the greater of (x) the pro rata value of Citigroup's Class B membership interests in OFS being sold based upon the valuation placed upon 100% of OFS' total issued and outstanding membership interests in the contemplated transaction and (y) the pro rata value of Citigroup's Class B membership interests in OFS being sold based upon a \$55,000,000 valuation of 100% of OFS' total issued and outstanding membership interests. If, in connection with any definitive agreement providing for the sale by Opteum of any of its Class A membership interests in OFS to an unaffiliated third party that is not a bank, broker-dealer or any affiliate thereof, Opteum chooses not to exercise its Drag-Along Right, then Citigroup has the right (a "Tag-Along Right") to sell to such unaffiliated third party up to the same percentage of Citigroup's Class B membership interests in OFS as the percentage of Opteum's Class A membership interests in OFS proposed to be sold by Opteum bears to the total OFS membership interests then owned by Opteum.

The Purchase Agreement also contains representations and warranties that the parties have made to each other as of specific dates. The assertions embodied in those representations and warranties were made solely for purposes of the contract between the parties, and may be subject to important qualifications and limitations agreed to by the parties in connection with negotiating its terms. Moreover, the representations and warranties are subject to a contractual standard of materiality that may be different from what may be viewed as material to shareholders, and the representations and warranties may have been intended not as statements of fact, but rather as a way of allocating risk among the parties.

In connection with the closing of the transaction contemplated by the Purchase Agreement, on December 21, 2006, Opteum and Citigroup approved a Sixth Amended and Restated Limited Liability Company Agreement of Opteum Financial Services, LLC (the "Operating Agreement") among Opteum, OFS and Citigroup, that became effective immediately following the closing of such transaction. Upon effectiveness of the Operating Agreement, Opteum owned 100% of OFS' issued and outstanding voting Class A limited liability company membership interests, representing 92.5% of OFS' total issued and outstanding limited liability company membership interests, and Citigroup owned 100% of OFS' issued and outstanding non-voting Class B limited liability company membership interests, representing 7.5% of OFS' total issued and outstanding limited liability company membership interests. Pursuant to the terms of the Operating Agreement, Citigroup's Class B limited liability company membership interests in OFS are not transferable unless such transfer is first approved by OFS' board of managers.

The foregoing descriptions of the Purchase Agreement and the Operating Agreement, including the descriptions of the Redemption Rights, Anti-Dilution Right, Drag-Along Right and Tag-Along Right, do not purport to be complete and are qualified in their entirety by reference to the Purchase Agreement and Operating Agreement, copies of which are filed as Exhibit 10.1 and Exhibit 10.2 hereto, respectively, and are incorporated herein by reference.

Item 7.01 Regulation FD Disclosure.

On December 21, 2006, Opteum Inc. ("Opteum") issued the press release attached hereto as Exhibit 99.1, which press release is incorporated into this Item 7.01 Regulation FD Disclosure by reference in its entirety.

The information furnished under this Item 7.01 Regulation FD Disclosure, including the exhibit related hereto, shall not be deemed "filed" with the Securities and Exchange Commission for purposes of Section 18 of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended, nor shall such information be incorporated by reference into any registration statement filed by the Company under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, regardless of any general incorporation language in such filing.

Item 9.01 Financial Statements and Exhibits.

(d) Exhibits

Exhibit 10.1 Membership Interest Purchase, Option and Investor Rights Agreement, dated as of December 21, 2006, among Opteum Inc., Opteum Financial Services, LLC and Citigroup Global Markets Realty Corp.

Exhibit 10.2 Sixth Amended and Restated Limited Liability Company Agreement of Opteum Financial Services, LLC effective as of December 21, 2006.

Exhibit 99.1 Press release of Opteum Inc. dated December 21, 2006.

SIGNATURES

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, the registrant has duly caused this report to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned hereunto duly authorized.

Opteum Inc.

December 21, 2006

By: */s/ Jeffrey J. Zimmer*

Name: Jeffrey J. Zimmer

Title: Chairman, President and Chief Executive Officer

Exhibit Index

| <u>Exhibit No.</u> | <u>Description</u> |
|--------------------|--|
| 10.1 | Membership Interest Purchase, Option and Investor Rights Agreement, dated as of December 21, 2006, among Opteum Inc., Opteum Financial Services, LLC and Citigroup Global Markets Realty Corp. |
| 10.2 | Sixth Amended and Restated Limited Liability Company Agreement of Opteum Financial Services, LLC effective as of December 21, 2006. |
| 99.1 | Press Release of Opteum Inc. dated December 21, 2006. |

MEMBERSHIP INTEREST PURCHASE, OPTION**AND****INVESTOR RIGHTS AGREEMENT****Among****OPTEUM INC.,****OPTEUM FINANCIAL SERVICES, LLC****and****CITIGROUP GLOBAL MARKETS REALTY CORP.****Dated as of December 21, 2006**

| | | |
|--|---|----|
| ARTICLE I DEFINITIONS | 1 | |
| Section 1.1. | Definitions | 1 |
| Section 1.2. | Other Defined Terms | 5 |
| ARTICLE II PURCHASE AND SALE OF MEMBERSHIP INTERESTS | | 7 |
| Section 2.1. | Purchase and Sale | 7 |
| Section 2.2. | Purchase Price | 7 |
| Section 2.3. | Closing | 7 |
| Section 2.4. | Option to Purchase Additional Interests | 7 |
| Section 2.5. | Reclassification of Company Membership Interests | 8 |
| Section 2.6. | Anti-Dilution | 9 |
| Section 2.7. | Repurchase Rights; Sale of Assets | 10 |
| Section 2.8. | Drag-Along Rights | 11 |
| Section 2.9. | Tag-Along Rights | 12 |
| ARTICLE III REPRESENTATIONS AND WARRANTIES OF PARENT AND THE COMPANY | | 13 |
| Section 3.1. | Representations of Parent | 13 |
| Section 3.2. | Corporate Organization and Authority | 15 |
| Section 3.3. | Binding Effect of Agreement | 15 |
| Section 3.4. | No Conflicts | 15 |
| Section 3.5. | Consents and Approvals | 15 |
| Section 3.6. | Capitalization | 16 |
| Section 3.7. | Title to Assets | 16 |
| Section 3.8. | Financial Statements | 16 |
| Section 3.9. | Events Subsequent to Most Recent Fiscal Month End | 16 |
| Section 3.10. | Undisclosed Liabilities | 16 |
| Section 3.11. | Legal Compliance | 17 |
| Section 3.12. | Tax Matters | 17 |
| Section 3.13. | Contracts | 17 |
| Section 3.14. | Insurance | 17 |
| Section 3.15. | Litigation | 17 |
| Section 3.16. | ERISA | 18 |
| Section 3.17. | Subsidiaries | 18 |
| Section 3.18. | Possession of Licenses and Permits | 18 |
| Section 3.19. | Independent Auditors | 18 |
| Section 3.20. | Not an Investment Company | 18 |
| Section 3.21. | No General Solicitation | 19 |
| Section 3.22. | No Registration | 19 |
| Section 3.23. | No Integration | 19 |
| Section 3.24. | No Other Representations | 19 |
| ARTICLE IV REPRESENTATIONS AND WARRANTIES OF PURCHASER | | 19 |
| Section 4.1. | Organization and Qualification | 19 |
| Section 4.2. | Authority; Non-Contravention; Approvals | 19 |
| Section 4.3. | Restricted Securities | 20 |
| Section 4.4. | Subscriber Bears Economic Risk | 20 |
| Section 4.5. | Acquisition For Own Account | 20 |
| Section 4.6. | Accredited Investor | 20 |
| Section 4.7. | Information | 20 |
| Section 4.8. | No Public Market | 21 |
| Section 4.9. | Legends | 21 |
| ARTICLE V COVENANTS | | 21 |
| Section 5.1. | Transfer Taxes | 21 |

| | | |
|--|---|----|
| Section 5.2. | Public Announcements | 21 |
| Section 5.3. | Further Assurances; Post-Closing Cooperation | 21 |
| Section 5.4. | Notification | 21 |
| Section 5.5. | Reporting Requirements | 22 |
| Section 5.6. | Tax Status | 22 |
| Section 5.7. | Liquidation Provisions | 22 |
| Section 5.8. | Intercompany Transactions | 22 |
| ARTICLE VICONDITIONS TO OBLIGATIONS OF PARTIES | | 22 |
| Section 6.1. | Conditions Precedent to Each Party’s Obligations at the Closings | 22 |
| Section 6.2. | Conditions Precedent to the Obligations of Parent at Closing | 22 |
| Section 6.3. | Conditions to the Obligations of Purchaser at Closing | 23 |
| Section 6.4. | Conditions Precedent to the Obligations of Parent at Option Closing | 24 |
| Section 6.5. | Conditions to the Obligations of Purchaser at Option Closing | 24 |
| ARTICLE VIIDISPUTE | | |
| RESOLUTION | | 25 |
| Section 7.1. | Survival of Representations and Warranties | 25 |
| Section 7.2. | Alternative Dispute Resolution | 25 |
| ARTICLE VIIIMISCELLANEOUS | | 27 |
| Section 8.1. | Notices | 27 |
| Section 8.2. | Entire Agreement | 27 |
| Section 8.3. | Expenses | 28 |
| Section 8.4. | Waiver | 28 |
| Section 8.5. | Amendment | 28 |
| Section 8.6. | No Third-Party Beneficiary | 28 |
| Section 8.7. | Assignment; Binding Effect | 28 |
| Section 8.8. | CONSENT TO JURISDICTION AND SERVICE OF PROCESS | 28 |
| Section 8.9. | Invalid Provisions | 29 |
| Section 8.10. | GOVERNING LAW | 29 |
| Section 8.11. | Counterparts | 29 |
| Section 8.12. | Disclosure Schedule | 29 |
| Section 8.13. | Interpretation | 29 |

MEMBERSHIP INTEREST PURCHASE, OPTION AND INVESTOR RIGHTS AGREEMENT

MEMBERSHIP INTEREST PURCHASE, OPTION AND INVESTOR RIGHTS AGREEMENT, dated as of December 21, 2006, by and between CITIGROUP GLOBAL MARKETS REALTY CORP., a New York corporation (“Purchaser”), OPTEUM INC., a Maryland corporation (“Parent”), and OPTEUM FINANCIAL SERVICES, LLC, a Delaware limited liability company (the “Company”).

BACKGROUND

WHEREAS, Parent is the record and beneficial owner of all of the issued and outstanding limited liability company interests of the Company (the “Company Membership Interests”);

WHEREAS, the Company is engaged in the business of originating and securitizing mortgage loans in the U.S., and is currently treated (and shall remain treated) as a taxable REIT subsidiary of Parent within the meaning of Section 856(l) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended (the “Code”);

WHEREAS, Parent wishes to sell and dispose of, and Purchaser wishes to purchase, an aggregate of 7.5% of all of the Company Membership Interests then outstanding (the “Purchased Membership Interests”), on the terms and subject to the conditions set forth in this Agreement; and

WHEREAS, at the Closing, Parent and Purchaser will enter into the Sixth Amended and Restated Limited Liability Company Agreement of the Company in the form attached as Exhibit A to this Agreement (the “Operating Agreement”), which Operating Agreement shall be effective from and after the Closing Date.

NOW, THEREFORE, in consideration of the premises and of the mutual covenants and agreements herein contained and other valuable consideration, the receipt and adequacy of which are hereby acknowledged, the parties agree as follows:

ARTICLE I

DEFINITIONS

Section 1.1. Definitions.

(a) As used in this Agreement, the following terms shall have the following meanings:

“Affiliate” means, with respect to any Person, any other Person that directly, or indirectly through one or more intermediaries, controls or is controlled by or is under common control with the Person specified. The term “control” (including the terms “controlling,” “controlled by” and “under common control with”) means possession, direct or indirect, of the power to direct or cause the direction of the management and policies of a Person, whether through the ownership of voting securities, by contract or otherwise.

“Agreement” means this Membership Interest Purchase, Option and Investor Rights Agreement, together with the Exhibits and the Disclosure Schedule attached hereto.

“Business Day” means any day other than a Saturday, Sunday or any day on which banks located in New York City, New York are authorized or required to be closed for the conduct of regular banking business.

“Change of Control” means, the occurrence of any of the following:

(a) with respect to Parent:

(i) any consolidation or merger of Parent where (A) the shareholders of Parent, immediately prior to the consolidation or merger, would not, immediately after the consolidation or merger, beneficially own (as such term is defined in Rule 13d-3 under the Exchange Act), directly or indirectly, shares representing in the aggregate 50% or more of the combined voting power of the securities of the corporation issuing cash or securities in the consolidation or merger (or of its ultimate parent corporation, if any) and (B) the surviving entity is a bank, broker-dealer or an Affiliate thereof; or

(ii) any consolidation or merger of Parent where (A) the shareholders of Parent, immediately prior to the consolidation or merger, would not, immediately after the consolidation or merger, beneficially own (as such term is defined in Rule 13d-3 under the Exchange Act), directly or indirectly, shares representing in the aggregate 50% or more of the combined voting power of the securities of the corporation issuing cash or securities in the consolidation or merger (or of its ultimate parent corporation, if any) and (B) the surviving entity is not a bank, broker-dealer or an Affiliate thereof; or

(iii) there shall occur (A) any sale, lease, exchange or other transfer (in one transaction or a series of transactions contemplated or arranged by any party as a single plan) of all or substantially all of the assets of Parent, other than a sale or disposition by Parent of all or substantially all of Parent’s assets to an entity, at least 50% of the combined voting power of the voting securities of which are owned by “persons” (as defined below in Section (iv)) in substantially the same proportion as their ownership of the Parent immediately prior to such sale and other than sales of Parent’s investment portfolio (or any portion thereof) in the Ordinary Course of Business or (B) the approval by shareholders of Parent of any plan or proposal for the liquidation or dissolution of Parent; or

(iv) any “person,” (as such term is used in Sections 13(d) and 14(d) of the Exchange Act, but excluding the Company, any entity controlling, controlled by or under common control with Parent, any employee benefit plan of Parent or any such entity), that is (A) a bank, broker-dealer or Affiliate thereof, or (B) other than a bank, broker-dealer or Affiliate thereof, in either case, is or becomes the “beneficial owner” (as defined in Rule 13(d)(3) under the Exchange Act), directly or indirectly, of securities of Parent representing 30% or more of either (x) the combined voting power of Parent’s then outstanding securities or (y) the then outstanding common stock of Parent (in either such case other than as a result of an acquisition of securities directly from Parent); provided, however, that, in no event shall a Change in Control be deemed to have occurred upon an initial public offering or a subsequent public offering of the common stock of Parent under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended; or

(b) with respect to the Company:

(i) the sale of Company Membership Interests to a bank, broker-dealer or Affiliate thereof, in which Parent fails to beneficially own, immediately after the effective time of such transaction, (x) voting interests representing more than fifty percent (50%) of the voting power of the Company’s outstanding securities necessary to elect a majority of the Company’s board of managers or (y) equity interests representing more than 50% of the economic equity represented by the Company’s outstanding securities; or

(ii) the sale of Company Membership Interests to other than a bank, broker-dealer or Affiliate thereof, in which Parent fails to beneficially own, immediately after the effective time of such transaction, (x) voting interests representing more than fifty percent (50%) of the voting power of the Company’s outstanding securities necessary to elect a majority of the members of the Company’s board of managers or (y) equity interests representing more than 50% of the economic equity represented by the Company’s outstanding securities; or

(iii) a merger, reorganization or consolidation involving the Company, (A) in which Parent fails to beneficially own, immediately after the effective time of such transaction (x) voting interests representing more than fifty percent (50%) of the combined voting power of the surviving entity’s outstanding securities necessary to elect a majority of the members of such entity’s board of directors or board of managers or (y) equity interests representing more than 50% of the economic equity represented by the entity’s outstanding securities and (B) the surviving entity is a bank, broker-dealer or an Affiliate thereof; or

(iv) a merger, reorganization or consolidation involving the Company, (A) in which Parent fails to beneficially own, immediately after the effective time of such transaction (x) voting interests representing more than fifty percent (50%) of the combined voting power of the surviving entity’s outstanding securities necessary to elect a majority of the members of such entity’s board of directors or board of managers or (y) equity interests representing more than 50% of the economic equity represented by the entity’s outstanding securities and (B) the surviving entity is not a bank, broker-dealer or an Affiliate thereof; or

(c) the sale of all or substantially all of the assets of the Company in a single transaction or a series of related transactions; or

(d) with respect to HS Special Purposes, LLC, if HS Special Purposes, LLC ceases to be 100% owned by the Company.

“Closing” means the closing of the sale and purchase of the Purchased Membership Interests as contemplated by this Agreement.

“Disclosure Schedules” means the disclosure schedule delivered by Parent and the Company prior to or concurrently with the execution and delivery of this Agreement.

“Encumbrances” means any and all liens, encumbrances, charges, security interests, mortgages, pledges, options, title defects, or other adverse claims or restrictions on title of any nature whatsoever and, when used with respect to any Company Membership Interest, including the Purchased Membership Interests and the Option Membership Interests, shall include without limitation, any rights of first refusal or first offer, proxies, voting trusts or agreements.

“Environmental Laws” means all federal, state, and local environmental laws and regulations applicable to the Company and its Subsidiaries, including, without limitation, those applicable to emissions to the environment, waste management and waste disposal.

“ERISA” means the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974, as amended.

“Exchange Act” means the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, and any successor statute thereto, in each case as amended from time to time.

“GAAP” means United States generally accepted accounting principles as in effect on the date of this Agreement.

“Governmental Authority” means any international, supranational, national, provincial, regional, federal, state, municipal or local government, any instrumentality, subdivision, court, administrative or regulatory agency or commission or other authority thereof, or any quasi-governmental or private body exercising any regulatory, taxing, importing or other governmental or quasi-governmental authority.

“Liability” means any liability or obligation of whatever kind or nature (whether known or unknown, whether asserted or unasserted, whether absolute or contingent, whether accrued or unaccrued, whether liquidated or unliquidated, and whether due or to become due).

“Loan Documents” means the (i) Master Loan and Security Agreement (the “Master Loan and Security Agreement”), dated as of September 1, 2003, between HS Special Purpose, LLC and Purchaser together with all amendments thereto, (ii) Master Repurchase Agreement (the “Master Repurchase Agreement”), dated as of November 3, 2005, between HS Special Purpose, LLC and Purchaser together with all amendments thereto, (iii) Parent Guaranty, dated as of December 21, 2006, by and between Parent favor of Purchaser, party to the Master Repurchase Agreement, (iv) Parent Guaranty, dated as of December 21, 2006, by and between Parent in favor of Purchaser, party to the Master Loan and Security Agreement, (v) Amended and Restated Guaranty, dated as of December 21, 2006, by and between the Company in favor of Purchaser, party to the Master Repurchase Agreement, and (vi) Second Amended and Restated Guaranty, dated as of December 21, 2006 by and between the Company in favor of Purchaser, party to the Master Loan and Security Agreement.

“Losses” means any and all damages, fines, fees, penalties, deficiencies, liabilities, claims, losses (excluding loss of value), demands, judgments, settlements, actions, obligations and costs and expenses (including interest, court costs and the reasonable fees and costs of attorneys, accountants and other experts).

“Material Adverse Effect” or “Material Adverse Change” means any effect or change that would be materially adverse to the business of the Company, taken as a whole, or to the ability of any party to consummate timely the transactions contemplated hereby; provided that none of the following shall be deemed to constitute, and none of the following shall be taken into account in determining whether there has been, a Material Adverse Effect or Material Adverse Change: any adverse change, event, development, or effect arising from or relating to (1) national or international political or social conditions, including the engagement by the United States in hostilities, whether or not pursuant to the declaration of a national emergency or war, or the occurrence of any military or terrorist attack upon the U.S., or any of its territories, possessions, or diplomatic or consular offices or upon any military installation, equipment or personnel of the U.S., (2) changes in U.S. generally accepted accounting principles, (3) changes in laws, rules, regulations, orders, or other binding directives issued by any Governmental Authority, (4) the taking of any action contemplated by this Agreement and the other agreements contemplated hereby, (5) the announcement or consummation of the transactions contemplated by this Agreement.

“Most Recent Balance Sheet” means the consolidated balance sheet of Parent and its Subsidiaries as of September 30, 2006.

“Option Closing” means the closing of the sale and purchase of the Option Membership Interests as contemplated by this Agreement.

“Ordinary Course of Business” means the ordinary course of business consistent with past practice (including with respect to quantity and frequency).

“Person” means any natural person, corporation, general partnership, limited partnership, limited or unlimited liability company, proprietorship, joint venture, other business organization, trust, business trust, union, association, Governmental Authority or other entity.

“Purchaser Membership Interests” means the Purchased Membership Interests and the Option Membership Interests.

“Securities Act” means the Securities Act of 1933, as amended from time to time, and the rules and regulations promulgated thereunder.

“Subsidiary” means, with respect to any Person, any other Person (i) of which the first Person owns directly or indirectly 50% or more of the outstanding voting stock or other equity interest in the other Person; (ii) of which the first Person or any other Subsidiary of the first Person is a general partner or (iii) of which securities or other ownership interests having ordinary voting power to elect a majority of the board of directors or other persons performing similar functions with respect to the other Person are at the time owned by the first Person and/or one or more of the first Person’s Subsidiaries.

“Tax” or “Taxes” means (a) any and all U.S. federal, state, local, or foreign income, gross receipts, license, payroll, employment, excise, severance, stamp, occupation, premium, windfall profits, environmental, customs duties, capital stock, franchise, profits, withholding, social security (or similar, including FICA), unemployment, disability, real property, personal property, sales, use, transfer, registration, value added, alternative or add-on minimum, estimated, or other tax of any kind or any charge of any kind in the nature of (or similar to) taxes whatsoever, including any interest, penalty, or addition thereto, whether disputed or not and (b) any liability for the payment of any amounts of the type described in clause (a) of this definition as a result of being a member of an affiliated, consolidated, combined or unitary group for any period, as a result of any tax sharing or tax allocation agreement, arrangement or understanding, or as a result of being liable for another person’s taxes as a transferee or successor, by contract or otherwise.

Section 1.2. Other Defined Terms.

(a) Other terms defined are in the other parts of this Agreement indicated below:

| | |
|----------------------------------|----------|
| “1934 Act Regulations” | 3.1(f) |
| “1934 Reports” | 3.1(f) |
| “Claim” | 7.2(a) |
| “Class A Interests” | 2.5 |
| “Class B Interests” | 2.5 |
| “Closing Date” | 2.3 |
| “COC Option Exercise Notice” | 2.4(d) |
| “Company” | Preamble |
| “Company Membership Interests” | Recitals |
| “Drag-Along Notice” | 2.8(a) |
| “Financial Statements” | 3.1(g) |
| “Governmental Licenses” | 3.18 |
| “Minority Offer” | 2.9(a) |
| “Minority Sale Notice” | 2.9(a) |
| “Month-End Financials” | 3.8 |
| “New Issue Notice” | 2.6(a) |
| “NIPs” | 2.6(a) |
| “Operating Agreement” | Recitals |
| “Option” | 2.4(a) |
| “Option Closing Date” | 2.4(c) |
| “Option Exercise Notice” | 2.4(b) |
| “Option Expiration Date” | 2.4(b) |
| “Option Membership Interests” | 2.4(a) |
| “Option Purchase Price” | 2.4(c) |
| “Parent” | Preamble |
| “Purchase Price” | 2.2 |
| “Purchased Membership Interests” | Recitals |
| “Purchaser” | Preamble |
| “Redemption Events” | 2.7(a) |
| “REIT” | 2.4(f) |
| “Repurchase” | 2.7(a) |
| “SEC” | 3.1(f) |

(b) For the purposes of this Agreement, except to the extent that the context otherwise requires:

(i) when a reference is made in this Agreement to an Article, Section, Exhibit or Schedule, such reference is to an Article or Section of, or an Exhibit or Schedule to, this Agreement unless otherwise indicated;

(ii) the table of contents and headings for this Agreement are for reference purposes only and do not affect in any way the meaning or interpretation of this Agreement;

(iii) whenever the words “include,” “includes” or “including” (or similar terms) are used in this Agreement, they are deemed to be followed by the words “without limitation”;

(iv) the words “hereof,” “herein” and “hereunder” and words of similar import, when used in this Agreement, refer to this Agreement as a whole and not to any particular provision of this Agreement;

(v) all terms defined in this Agreement have their defined meanings when used in any certificate or other document made or delivered pursuant hereto, unless otherwise defined therein;

(vi) the definitions contained in this Agreement are applicable to the singular as well as the plural forms of such terms;

(vii) if any action is to be taken by any party hereto pursuant to this Agreement on a day that is not a Business Day, such action shall be taken on the next Business Day following such day;

(viii) references to a Person are also to its heirs, personal representatives, permitted successors and assigns;

(ix) the use of “or” is not intended to be exclusive unless expressly indicated otherwise;

(x) “contract” includes any note, bond, mortgage, indenture, deed of trust, loan, credit agreement, franchise concession, contract, agreement, permit, license, lease, purchase order, sales order, arrangement or other commitment, obligation or understanding, whether written or oral;

(xi) “assets” shall include “rights,” including rights under contracts; and

(xii) “reasonable efforts” or similar terms shall not require the waiver of any rights under this Agreement.

ARTICLE II

PURCHASE AND SALE OF MEMBERSHIP INTERESTS

Section 2.1. Purchase and Sale. At the Closing, upon the terms and subject to the conditions of this Agreement, Parent shall sell, transfer, assign, convey and deliver to Purchaser, and Purchaser shall purchase from Parent, the Purchased Membership Interests, free and clear of all Encumbrances (other than Encumbrances created by Purchaser or arising under this Agreement, the Securities Act or any applicable state law).

Section 2.2. Purchase Price. The purchase price (the "Purchase Price") to be paid to Parent by Purchaser for the Purchased Membership Interests at the Closing shall be US \$4,125,000 in cash.

Section 2.3. Closing. The Closing shall be held at the offices of Thacher Proffitt & Wood LLP, Two World Financial Center, New York, New York 10281 at 10:00 a.m. local time on the third (3rd) Business Day after the satisfaction or waiver of all of the conditions (other than those conditions that by their nature are to be satisfied by actions taken at Closing, but subject to the fulfillment or waiver of those conditions) set forth in ARTICLE VI (the "Closing Date").

Section 2.4. Option to Purchase Additional Interests.

(a) Subject to the terms and conditions of this Agreement, Parent hereby grants to Purchaser, and Purchaser hereby accepts, the right to purchase (the "Option") from Parent, and Parent hereby agrees to sell to Purchaser upon the exercise of the Option, additional Company Membership Interests constituting 7.49% of all of the Company Membership Interests then outstanding (the "Option Membership Interests").

(b) Subject to the provisions of this Section 2.4, Purchaser will be entitled to exercise the Option at any time on or before the first anniversary of the date of this Agreement (the "Option Expiration Date"), by delivering a written notice (the "Option Exercise Notice") to Parent of such exercise. Unless the provisions of Section 2.4(d) are applicable, following the Option Expiration Date the Option shall terminate without any further action of the parties hereto and shall be forfeited.

(c) If the Option is exercised, other than pursuant to a COC Option Exercise Notice (as hereinafter defined), the parties shall use their best efforts to effect the purchase of the Option Membership Interests as soon as practicable and in any event not later than ten (10) Business Days after the date on which Purchaser delivers the Option Exercise Notice (the "Option Closing Date"); provided, however, that if the Option is not then exercisable as set forth in Section 2.4(f), the Option Closing Date shall be as set forth in Section 2.4(f). Except as otherwise provided below in this Section 2.4 and, subject to the limitations set forth in Section 2.4(b), on the Option Closing Date, Purchaser shall transfer to Parent US \$4,119,500 (the "Option Purchase Price") in immediately available funds to the bank account designated by Parent, and Parent shall sell to Purchaser the Option Membership Interests, free and clear of all Encumbrances (other than Encumbrances created by Purchaser or those arising under this Agreement, the Securities Act or any applicable state securities laws).

(d) Notwithstanding anything in this Agreement to the contrary, if the Company executes a definitive agreement with respect to a Change of Control as provided for under any subclause of clause (b) or subclause (c) of the definition of Change of Control in Section 1(a) of this Agreement, then, in any such case, Parent shall provide written notice (the "Change of Control Notice") to Purchaser and Purchaser shall have fifteen (15) Business Days from the date of receipt of the Change of Control Notice to deliver a written notice to Parent (the "COC Option Exercise Notice") of its election to exercise the Option immediately prior to the occurrence of such Change of Control. If Purchaser fails to deliver the COC Option Exercise Notice within such fifteen (15) Business Day period, the Option shall terminate and be of no further force and effect; provided, however, that if the definitive agreement referred to above is terminated, the Option Expiration Date shall be extended without any further action by the parties here, to the later of (x) the Option Expiration Date or (y) the fifteenth (15th) Business Day following such termination.

(e) If Purchaser is entitled to, and does, deliver a timely COC Option Exercise Notice to Parent, the Company and Purchaser will work together to ensure that the exercise of the Option in connection with the Change of Control is on a cashless basis and that Purchaser receives the consideration to which it is entitled as a result of the applicable Change of Control with respect to its Option Membership Interests as determined pursuant to Section 2.7 of this Agreement, less the amount of the applicable Option Purchase Price.

(f) Notwithstanding anything in this Agreement to the contrary, Purchaser shall not be entitled to exercise the Option (unless a COC Option Exercise Notice is delivered in which case this Section 2.4(f) shall not apply) to the extent Parent has received a written opinion of legal counsel stating that such exercise will or is reasonably likely to adversely affect Parent's ability to qualify as a real estate investment trust within the meaning of Code Section 856 (a "REIT") for the year in which the Option is to be exercised. If Purchaser's exercise of the Option is limited pursuant to this Section 2.4(f), Purchaser shall pay to the Company the Option Exercise Price (if applicable) for the portion of the Option that Purchaser was unable to exercise and the Company shall issue to Purchaser the Option Membership Interests (newly issued Class B Membership Interests) that would have, but for the application of this Section 2.4(f), purchased from Parent. If this Section 2.4(f) is applicable, the Option Closing Date shall occur within ten (10) Business Days of the delivery of the opinion of legal counsel referred to above.

Section 2.5. Reclassification of Company Membership Interests. Immediately prior to the Closing, pursuant to the terms of the Operating Agreement, the Company reclassified the Company Membership interests into two separate series: (a) a new class of Company Membership Interests that does not have voting rights (the "Class B Interests") and (b) a new class of Company Membership Interests that has voting rights, into which all existing Company Membership Interests at that time, all of which are held by Parent, were initially converted (the "Class A Interests"). Immediately following such reclassification, Parent elected, pursuant to the terms of the Operating Agreement, to convert a portion of its Class A Interests equal to the Purchased Membership Interests into Class B Interests with the intention of selling such Class B Interests to Purchaser pursuant to the terms of this Agreement. Immediately prior to the Option Closing, Parent will, pursuant to the terms of the Operating Agreement, convert a portion of its remaining Class A Interests equal to the Purchased Membership Interests into Class B Interests with the intention of selling such Class B Interests to Purchaser pursuant to the terms of the Option.

Section 2.6. Anti-Dilution.

(a) If at any time the Company wishes to sell additional equity securities in any sale of Company Membership Interests or other equity securities which does not result in a Change of Control or the occurrence of a Redemption Event (whether or not of the same class as the Purchased Membership Interests), then the Company shall provide not less than thirty (30) days written notice to Purchaser (the “New Issue Notice”) of its intent to do so. The New Issue Notice shall set forth: (i) the number and type of securities proposed to be issued by the Company; (ii) the proposed amount and type of consideration payable therefore and the terms and conditions of payment; and (iii) that the new issue purchasers (the “NIPs”) have been informed of the rights provided for in this Section.

(b) For a period of fifteen (15) days following receipt of any New Issue Notice described in subsection (a) above, Purchaser shall have the right to purchase such portion of the securities subject to such New Issue Notice on the same terms and conditions as set forth therein, sufficient to maintain Purchaser’s ownership percentage at the same level as it was immediately prior to the proposed new issue. Purchaser’s purchase rights shall be exercised or declined by written notice delivered to the Company within such fifteen (15) day period specifying the number of securities to be acquired by Purchaser, if any.

(c) If Purchaser does not elect to purchase all of the securities available pursuant to its rights under subsection (b) above within the fifteen (15) day period set forth therein, the Company shall have the right, exercisable upon written notice to Purchaser within fifteen (15) days after the receipt of Purchaser’s notice under subsection (b) above to sell, in addition to the other securities being sold to the NIP, all of the securities that were not elected to be acquired by Purchaser on the same terms and conditions as set forth in the New Issue Notice.

(d) If Purchaser elects to purchase any of the securities subject to the New Issue Notice, the Company shall honor such election to purchase and consummate the sale or sales of such securities on terms set forth in the New Issue Notice not later than ninety (90) days after delivery of the New Issue Notice, and at such time the Company shall deliver to Purchaser the certificate(s) representing the securities to be purchased thereby, each certificate or instrument to be properly endorsed for transfer or shall update the schedules to the Operating Agreement to reflect such securities purchase.

(e) If Purchaser does not elect to purchase any securities subject to the New Issue Notice, subject to compliance with this Section, the Company may consummate the transfer of all of the securities specified in the New Issue Notice, including those securities that were not purchased by Purchaser, to the NIPs pursuant to the terms set forth in the New Issue Notice.

(f) If Purchaser has elected to purchase any of the securities subject of the New Issue Notice, but does not consummate such purchase at the closings scheduled therefore, the Company may consummate the transfer of such securities to the NIPs, pursuant to the terms set forth in the New Issue Notice.

(g) Any proposed transfer to a NIP that is not consummated within ninety (90) days after the expiration of the fifteen (15) day period specified in subsection (c) above or any proposed transfer on terms and conditions more favorable than those described in the New Issue Notice shall again be subject to the rights of Purchaser contained in this Section 2.6.

Section 2.7. Repurchase Rights; Sale of Assets.

(a) Upon any of the events specified below (the “Redemption Events”) either Parent shall repurchase or the Company shall redeem all of the Purchaser Membership Interests owned by Purchaser at such time at the price and in accordance with the terms of Section 2.7(b) of this Agreement (a “Repurchase”):

(i) the sale of Company Membership Interests to a bank, broker-dealer or an Affiliate thereof, in which Parent continues to beneficially own, immediately after the effective time of such transaction (x) voting interests representing more than fifty percent (50%) of the voting power of the Company’s outstanding securities necessary to elect a majority of the Company’s board of managers or (y) equity interests representing more than fifty percent (50%) of the economic equity represented by the Company’s outstanding securities;

(ii) the occurrence of any of the events specified in any subclause of clause (b) of the definition of Change of Control; or

(iii) the occurrence of any of the events specified in any subclause of clause (a) of the definition of Change of Control.

(b) In the event of the occurrence of a Redemption Event, the purchase price and the procedure for such Repurchase shall be as follows:

(i) If the event specified in Section 2.7(a)(i) gives rise to the Redemption Event, then the purchase price for the Purchaser Membership Interests to be paid by Parent or the Company shall be the greater of (x) the pro rata value of the Purchaser Membership Interests based upon the valuation placed upon 100% of the Company Membership Interests in the contemplated transaction and (y) the pro rata value of the Purchaser Membership Interests based upon a \$55,000,000 valuation of 100% of the Company Membership Interests.

(ii) If any event specified in Section 2.7(a)(ii) gives rise to the Redemption Event, then the purchase price for the Purchaser Membership Interests to be paid by Parent or the Company shall be the pro rata value of the Purchaser Membership Interests based upon the valuation placed upon 100% of the Company Membership Interests in the contemplated transaction.

(iii) If any event specified in Section 2.7(a)(iii) gives rise to the Redemption Event, then the purchase price for the Purchaser Membership Interests to be paid by Parent or the Company shall be the pro rata value of the Purchaser Membership Interests based on the fair market value of the Company Membership Interests as determined by the appraisal process described in the next sentence. Upon the occurrence of an event specified in Section 2.7(a)(iii), the Company shall choose a third party appraiser to determine the value of the Company Membership Interests and the third party appraiser shall prepare a report setting forth its valuation. The valuation report shall be delivered by the Company to Purchaser and Purchaser shall have a period of ten (10) Business Days to review the valuation report and raise any objections to such valuation. If Purchaser raises any objections with respect to the valuation received from the Company’s appraiser during such ten (10) Business Day period, Purchaser shall retain its own third party appraiser to determine the value of the Company Membership Interests. Following receipt of Purchaser’s third party

valuation report, Parent shall deliver a copy of such report to the Company and the fair market value of the Company Membership Interests shall be the average of the two appraisals. If the appraisal from either or both third party appraisers specifies a range of value for the Company Membership Interests rather than a single dollar value the midpoint of the range provided by such appraiser shall be used for all purposes of the foregoing calculation. The valuation delivered by the Company's appraiser (if such valuation is not objected to or otherwise agreed to by Purchaser) or the average determined in accordance with the Section 2.7(b)(iii), as the case may be, shall be final, conclusive and binding on the parties to this Agreement. Notwithstanding anything to the contrary contained in this Agreement, if, in connection with the consummation of any transaction resulting from the occurrence of any event specified in Section 2.7(a)(iii), Parent obtains a fairness opinion from an investment bank or other financial advisor, Parent shall also obtain a fairness opinion with respect to the valuation placed upon the Company Membership Interests in connection with such Change of Control (to the effect that the valuation is fair to Purchaser from a financial point of view) and deliver a copy of such opinion to Purchaser concurrently with the delivery of the valuation report referenced above.

(c) The Company shall provide at least fifteen (15) days prior written notice to Purchaser of any Redemption Event. Except in the case of the occurrence of the events in subclause (iv) of clause (a) of the definition of Change of Control, in which case the closing of the Repurchase shall occur within five (5) Business Days of (i) Parent's waiver of the ownership requirements set forth in its Articles of Incorporation to permit such investment or (ii) the approval by Parent of any such person becoming a beneficial owner of Parent shares, Parent or the Company shall close the Repurchase and pay the applicable purchase price for the Purchaser Membership Interests simultaneously with the completion of the applicable Redemption Event. Purchaser shall execute such instruments of transfer relating to the Purchaser Membership Interests being transferred and an amendment to the Operating Agreement withdrawing as a Member, together with any other documents as may be reasonably required, upon payment of the purchase price set forth herein. Upon redemption or repurchase of the Purchaser Membership Interests, Purchaser shall no longer have any rights or interests as a Member of the Company.

(d) If the event specified in clause (c) of the definition of Change of Control occurs and the proceeds resulting from such sale are distributed to the holders of the Company Membership Interests in accordance with the provisions of the Operating Agreement, no Redemption Event shall be deemed to have occurred. If such an event occurs, Purchaser shall be entitled to participate ratably in the distribution of the assets of the Company pursuant to the liquidation provisions of the Operating Agreement.

Section 2.8. Drag-Along Rights.

(a) Unless a Redemption Event has occurred, if Parent enters into a definitive agreement for the sale of any of its Company Membership Interests to an unaffiliated third party and such third party is not a bank, broker-dealer or any Affiliate thereof, then Parent may deliver a written notice (a "Drag-Along Notice") to Purchaser setting forth the proposed purchase price and terms of the sale (including a copy of the proposed purchase agreement, if any) and the identity of the transferee(s).

(b) Upon receipt of the Drag-Along Notice, Purchaser shall be required to sell and transfer all or that portion of its Purchaser Membership Interests as set forth in the Drag-Along Notice (which shall in no event be less than the percentage of Parent's total Company Membership Interests proposed to be sold by Parent in such sale) at a purchase price which is the greater of (x) the pro rata value of the Purchaser Membership Interests based upon the valuation placed upon 100% of the Company Membership Interests in the contemplated transaction and (y) the pro rata value of the Purchaser Membership Interests based upon a \$55,000,000 valuation of 100% of the Company Membership Interests.

(c) Purchaser shall cooperate in consummating the sale described in the Drag-Along Notice, including, without limitation, by becoming a party to the sale agreement and all other appropriate related agreements, delivering, at the consummation of such sale, an assignment of its Purchaser Membership Interests, free and clear of all liens and encumbrances, and taking any other necessary or appropriate action in furtherance thereof, including the execution and delivery of any other appropriate agreements, certificates, instruments and other documents.

(d) Notwithstanding any other provision contained in this Section 2.8, there shall be no liability on the part of the Company or Parent in the event that the sale pursuant to this Section 2.8 is not consummated for any reason whatsoever.

Section 2.9. Tag-Along Rights.

(a) Unless a Redemption Event shall have occurred or Parent shall have delivered a valid Drag-Along Notice to Purchaser, if at any time, Parent proposes to sell, in one or more related transactions, any portion of its Company Membership Interests, in an amount in the aggregate less than 50% of the then outstanding Company Membership Interests, to an unaffiliated third party, and such third party is not a bank, broker-dealer or any Affiliate thereof, such disposition shall not be permitted unless Parent shall offer (the "Minority Offer") by written notice (the "Minority Sale Notice") to Purchaser the right to elect to include, at the option of Purchaser, in the sale to the third party, that portion of Purchaser's Membership Interest specified in this Section 2.9(a). The Minority Sale Notice shall specify that Purchaser shall have the right to sell, pursuant to the Minority Offer, up to the same percentage of Purchaser's Membership Interests as the percentage of Company Membership Interests to be disposed of by Parent then bears to the total number of Company Membership Interests then owned by Parent; provided, that if the Minority Offer is for a maximum number of Company Membership Interests and such number is less than the number that would be disposed of by application of the foregoing, then the right to sell Company Membership Interests shall be allocated on a *pro rata* basis among Parent and Purchaser in proportion to (i) the number of Company Membership Interests offered to be sold by such Member, as compared with (ii) the aggregate number of Company Membership Interests offered to be disposed of in the aggregate by the Members. The disposition by Purchaser pursuant to this Section 2.9(a) shall be on the same terms and conditions and price as are received by Parent and as stated in the Minority Notice.

(b) The Minority Notice shall describe the proposed transaction and shall include the sale consideration and other material terms thereof and shall be accompanied by copies of the documents pursuant to which such disposition is to be effected. At any time within 15 days after the delivery of the Minority Notice, Purchaser may accept the offer included in the applicable notice for up to such number of Purchaser Membership Interests determined in accordance with the provisions of Section 2.9(a) by furnishing written notice of such acceptance to Parent.

(c) At the closing of the sale of Company Membership Interests of Parent and Purchaser to the third party pursuant to the Minority Offer, Purchaser shall execute such documents as are to be executed by all Members pursuant to such offer against payment to Purchaser of the total price for the Purchaser Membership Interests and shall furnish such other evidence of the completion and time of completion of the sale and the terms thereof as may be reasonably requested.

(d) If, within 15 days after the delivery of the Minority Notice, Purchaser fails to accept the offer contained in the Minority Notice, Purchaser will be deemed to have waived any and all of its rights with respect to the sale or other disposition of Company Membership Interests described in such notice and Parent shall have 60 days in which to enter into an agreement to dispose of not more than the amount described in such notice on terms not more favorable to Parent than were set forth in the Minority Notice. If, at the end of 75 days following the delivery of the Minority Notice, Parent has not completed the sale or other disposition of Company Membership Interests in accordance with the terms of the third party's offer, all the restrictions on disposition contained in this Agreement with respect to Company Membership Interests owned by Parent shall again be in effect.

(e) The provisions of this Section 2.9 shall be inoperative and of no effect if a Redemption Event shall have occurred or a Drag Along Notice has been properly delivered by Parent to Purchaser with respect to a disposition of Company Membership Interests as provided in Section 2.8 of this Agreement.

ARTICLE III

REPRESENTATIONS AND WARRANTIES OF PARENT AND THE COMPANY

Parent and the Company hereby jointly and severally make the representations and warranties to Purchaser set forth in this Article III. For purposes of this Article III, the term "knowledge," when used below with respect to Parent of the Company, shall mean the actual knowledge of each of Parent's or the Company's executive officers and directors, as the case may be.

Section 3.1. Representations of Parent.

(a) Organization and Qualification of Parent. Parent is a corporation duly incorporated, validly existing and in good standing under the laws of the State of Maryland and has all requisite corporate power and authority to own, license, use, lease and operate its assets and properties and to carry on its business as it is now being conducted.

(b) Authority; Binding Effect of Agreement. Parent has all requisite corporate power and authority to, execute and deliver this Agreement and the Operating Agreement and to perform its obligations and consummate the transactions contemplated by this Agreement and the Operating Agreement. Each of this Agreement and the Operating Agreement has been duly executed and delivered by Parent and, assuming the due authorization, execution and delivery of this Agreement and the Operating Agreement by Purchaser, constitutes a valid and legally binding obligation of Parent, enforceable against Parent in accordance with its terms (subject to bankruptcy, insolvency, reorganization, moratorium and other similar laws affecting creditors' rights generally and to general principles of equity, regardless of whether enforcement is sought in a proceeding in equity or at law).

(c) No Conflicts. The execution and delivery by Parent of this Agreement and the Operating Agreement and the performance of the transactions contemplated by this Agreement and the Operating Agreement do not and will not (i) conflict with or result in a violation of any provision of the organizational documents of Parent, (ii) to the knowledge of Parent, except as set forth on Section 3.1(c) of the Disclosure Schedule, result in a violation or breach of or constitute a default (or an event which, with or without notice or lapse of time or both, would constitute a default) under, or result in the termination, modification or cancellation of, or the loss of a benefit under or accelerate the performance required by, or result in a right of termination, modification, cancellation or acceleration under the terms, conditions or provisions of any contract or other instrument of any kind to which Parent is now a party or by which any of its assets or properties may be bound or affected, or (iii) violate any order, writ, injunction, decree, statute, treaty, rule or regulation applicable to Parent, except with respect to clauses (ii) and (iii) for such violations, breaches and defaults as would not individually or in the aggregate reasonably be expected to result in a Material Adverse Effect or for which Parent has obtained a valid waiver; provided, however, that any such violation, breach or default shall be deemed to be a Material Adverse Effect in the event that such violation, breach or default entitles any person to take an action to invalidate the transactions contemplated by this Agreement.

(d) Consents and Approvals. No declaration, filing or registration with, or notice to, or authorization, consent, order or approval of, any Governmental Authority is required to be obtained or made in connection with or as a result of the execution and delivery of this Agreement and the Operating Agreement by Parent or the performance by Parent of the transactions contemplated by this Agreement and the Operating Agreement, except for such consents, approvals, orders, authorizations, registrations, declarations and filings as are listed on Section 3.1(d) of the Disclosure Schedule, those required to be made under the U.S. federal securities laws and, for those, the failure of which to obtain would not individually or in the aggregate reasonably be expected to result in a Material Adverse Effect; provided, however, that any such failure to obtain any required authorization, consent, order, or approval of any Governmental Authority with respect to the transactions contemplated hereby which failure would entitle such Governmental Authority to take any action seeking to invalidate such transactions shall be deemed to be a Material Adverse Effect.

(e) Ownership of Purchased Membership Interests. Parent is the lawful record and beneficial owner of the Purchased Membership Interests and owns such Purchased Membership Interests free and clear of all Encumbrances whatsoever, except for any Encumbrances created by this Agreement, the Operating Agreement, Purchaser and restrictions on transfer under federal and state securities laws. Upon the assignment of the Purchased Membership Interests by Parent to Purchaser in the manner contemplated under ARTICLE II, and the payment by Purchaser of the Purchase Price to Parent, Purchaser will acquire the beneficial and legal title to the Purchased Membership Interests, free and clear of all Encumbrances, except for any Encumbrances created by this Agreement, the Operating Agreement, Purchaser or restrictions on transfer under federal and state securities laws. Other than the Option, there are no outstanding options, warrants or other rights of any kind to acquire from Parent or the Company any Company Membership Interests or securities convertible into or exchangeable for, or which otherwise confer on the holder thereof any right to acquire from Parent or the Company any Company Membership Interests, nor is Parent or the Company committed to issue any such option, warrant, right or security.

(f) Compliance with Securities Act. Parent's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the annual period ended December 31, 2005 and Parent's Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the quarterly period ended September 30, 2006 (collectively, the "1934 Act Reports") at the time they were filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission (the "SEC"), complied, in all material respects with the requirements of the Exchange Act and the rules and regulations of the SEC thereunder (the "1934 Act Regulations"), and, at the time they were filed, did not include an untrue statement of material fact or omit to state a material fact required to be stated therein or necessary to make the statements therein, in light of the circumstances under which they were made, not misleading.

(g) Financial Statements. Parent has made available to Purchaser its audited consolidated balance sheet and statements of operations, stockholders' equity, and cash flows as of and for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2005 and its unaudited consolidated balance sheet and statements of operations, stockholders' equity, and cash flows as of and for the nine months ended September 30, 2006 (collectively, the "Financial Statements"). Except for normal year-end adjustments (which will not be material individually or in the aggregate) and the lack of footnotes and other presentation items, the Financial Statements have been prepared in accordance with GAAP on a consistent basis for the periods covered thereby and present fairly, in all material respects, the consolidated financial condition of Parent as of such dates and the consolidated results of operations of Parent for such period.

Section 3.2. Corporate Organization and Authority. The Company is a limited liability company, duly organized, validly existing and in good standing under the laws of the State of Delaware and has all necessary limited liability company power and authority to carry on its business as now being conducted and to own, use and lease its assets. Except as otherwise exempt from the relevant requirements, the Company and each of its Subsidiaries (i) either (A) is duly qualified, licensed and/or admitted to do business, or (B) where necessary, as determined on a case by case basis, enters into an appropriate arrangement with a Person who is duly qualified, licensed or admitted to do business, and (ii) is in good standing in every jurisdiction in which such qualification, licensing or admission is necessary because of the nature of the property owned, leased or operated by it or the nature of the business conducted by it, except where the failure to be so qualified, licensed or admitted to do business would not reasonably be expected to have a Material Adverse Effect.

Section 3.3. Binding Effect of Agreement. The execution and delivery of this Agreement and the performance of the transactions contemplated hereby have been approved by Parent and no other proceedings on the part of the Company are necessary to authorize the execution and delivery of this Agreement and the performance by the Company of the transactions contemplated hereby. This Agreement has been duly executed and delivered by the Company and, assuming the due authorization, execution and delivery of this Agreement by Purchaser, constitutes a valid and legally binding obligation of the Company, enforceable against the Company in accordance with its terms (subject to bankruptcy, insolvency, reorganization, moratorium and other similar laws affecting creditors' rights generally and to general principles of equity, regardless of whether enforcement is sought in a proceeding in equity or at law).

Section 3.4. No Conflicts. The execution and delivery by the Company of this Agreement and the performance of the transactions contemplated by this Agreement do not and will not (i) except for the Company's existing limited liability company agreement which will be amended and restated by the Operating Agreement, conflict with or result in a violation of any provision of the organizational documents of the Company or any of its Subsidiaries, (ii) result in a violation or breach of or constitute a default (or an event which, with or without notice or lapse of time or both, would constitute a default) under, or result in the termination, modification or cancellation of, or the loss of a benefit under or accelerate the performance required by, or result in a right of termination, modification, cancellation or acceleration under the terms, conditions or provisions of any contract or other instrument of any kind to which the Company or any of its Subsidiaries is now a party or by which any of their respective assets may be bound or affected or (iii) violate any order, writ, injunction, decree, statute, treaty, rule or regulation applicable to the Company or any of its Subsidiaries, except with respect to clauses (ii) and (iii) for such violations, breaches and defaults as would not individually or in the aggregate reasonably be expected to result in a Material Adverse Effect or for which the Company has obtained a valid waiver; provided, however, that any such violation, breach or default shall be deemed to be a Material Adverse Effect in the event that such violation, breach or default entitles any person to take an action to invalidate the transactions contemplated by this Agreement.

Section 3.5. Consents and Approvals. No consent, approval, order or authorization of, or registration, declaration or filing with, any Governmental Authority is required by or with respect to the Company or any of its Subsidiaries in connection with the execution and delivery of this Agreement or the consummation and performance of the transactions contemplated hereby, except for such consents, approvals, orders, authorizations, registrations, declarations and filings as are listed on Section 3.1(d) of the Disclosure Schedule, and those, the failure of which to obtain would not individually or in the aggregate reasonably be expected to result in a Material Adverse Effect; provided, however, that any such failure to obtain any required authorization, consent, order, or approval of any Governmental Authority with respect to the transactions contemplated hereby which failure would entitle such Governmental Authority to take any action seeking to invalidate such transactions shall be deemed to be a Material Adverse Effect.

Section 3.6. Capitalization. The Company Membership Interests constitute all of the issued and outstanding limited liability company interests of the Company as of the date hereof. All of the Company Membership Interests have been validly issued. There are no outstanding options, warrants or other rights of any kind to acquire from the Company any limited liability company interests of the Company or securities convertible into or exchangeable for, or which otherwise confer on the holder thereof any right to acquire, any such additional limited liability company interests, nor is the Company committed to issue any such option, warrant, right or security. Except for the Company Membership Interests, there are no other interests (including, without limitation, equity, profits and all other participation rights) issued by the Company or any of its Subsidiaries providing any Person with any rights to ownership or participation in the equity, profits or other results of operations of the Company. Upon reclassification pursuant to the terms of this Agreement and the Operating Agreement, the Purchased Membership Interests and the Option Membership Interests will be duly and validly issued and fully paid limited liability company interests of the Company, free and clear of all Encumbrances (other than Encumbrances arising under this Agreement, the Securities Act or any applicable state law). No shareholder of the Company or any other person is entitled to any preemptive rights with respect to the purchase or sale of any securities by the Company.

Section 3.7. Title to Assets. To the knowledge of the Company, the Company and its Subsidiaries have good and marketable title to, or a valid leasehold interest in, the properties and assets used by them or located on their premises, free and clear of all Encumbrances, except for properties and assets disposed of in the Ordinary Course of Business and except for any Encumbrances the existence of which do not interfere with the intended use of the property and the assets by the Company and any of its Subsidiaries or otherwise would not individually or in the aggregate have or reasonably be expected to have a Material Adverse Effect.

Section 3.8. Financial Statements. The Company has made available to Purchaser the unaudited consolidated balance sheet and statements of income and cash flows of the Company and its Subsidiaries as of and for the nine month period ended September 30, 2006 (the “Month-End Financials”). Except for normal year-end adjustments (which will not be material individually or in the aggregate), the lack of intercompany eliminations, footnotes and other presentation items, the Month-End Financials have been prepared in accordance with GAAP on a consistent basis, and present fairly, in all material respects, the consolidated financial condition of the Company as of such date and the consolidated results of operations of the Company for such period.

Section 3.9. Events Subsequent to Most Recent Fiscal Month End. Except as set forth on Section 3.9 of the Disclosure Schedule, since September 30, 2006, there has not been any Material Adverse Change.

Section 3.10. Undisclosed Liabilities. Neither the Company nor any of its Subsidiaries have any material Liability, except for (i) Liabilities set forth in the most recent balance sheet included in the Financial Statement or the Month-End Financials; (ii) Liabilities that have arisen after September 30, 2006 in the Ordinary Course of Business (none of which was caused by a breach of contract, breach of warranty, tort or other infringement); or (iii) Liabilities of a nature not required by GAAP to be reflected or recorded on the Financial Statements or the Month-End Financials.

Section 3.11. Legal Compliance. To the knowledge of the Company, no action, suit, proceeding, hearing, investigation, charge, complaint, claim, demand, or notice has been filed or commenced against the Company or any of its Subsidiaries alleging, and the Company otherwise does not have knowledge of, any failure to comply with any laws applicable to the Company or any of its Subsidiaries (including rules, regulations, codes, plans, injunctions, judgments, orders, decrees, rulings, and charges thereunder and including the Foreign Corrupt Practices Act, 15 U.S.C. 78dd-1 *et seq* and Environmental Laws) of federal, state, local, and foreign governments (and all agencies thereof), except where the action, suit, proceeding, hearing, investigation, charge, complaint, claim, demand, or notice relates to a failure to so comply which would not individually or in the aggregate reasonably be expected to result in a Material Adverse Effect.

Section 3.12. Tax Matters. The Company and its Subsidiaries have filed all necessary or appropriate federal, state, local and foreign Tax returns and reports and all Taxes, fees, assessments and governmental charges of any nature shown by such returns to be due and payable have been paid, except for those amounts being contested in good faith and for which appropriate amounts have been reserved in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles and except where the failure to file such returns and reports or pay such amounts would not individually or in the aggregate reasonably be expected to result in a Material Adverse Effect. There is no Tax deficiency which has been asserted against the Company or any of its Subsidiaries and, to the knowledge of the Company, no unassessed Tax deficiency or other claim for Taxes has been proposed or threatened against the Company or any of its Subsidiaries. Except as set forth on Section 3.12 of the Disclosure Schedule, the Company and its Subsidiaries have not been, and are not now being, audited by any federal, state, local or foreign Tax authorities. The Company and its Subsidiaries have made all material required deposits for Taxes applicable to the current tax year. All Tax returns and reports of the Company and its Subsidiaries were prepared in all material respects in accordance with the relevant rules and regulations of each Taxing authority having jurisdiction over the Company or any of its Subsidiaries. The Company is currently treated (and shall at all times remain treated) as a taxable REIT subsidiary of Parent within the meaning of Code Section 856(l).

Section 3.13. Contracts. All of the agreements to which the Company or its Subsidiaries is a party and which are material to the financial condition, operation or conduct of its business are legal, valid and binding obligations of the Company or any of its Subsidiaries and, to the best knowledge of the Company, of each of the other parties thereto, enforceable against the Company or the applicable Subsidiary in accordance with their respective terms. To the knowledge of the Company, all such agreements are in full force and effect in all material respects and the Company and such Subsidiary, and, to the knowledge of the Company, each other party thereto, is not in material default under any of such agreements except for defaults with respect to which the Company has received a valid waiver.

Section 3.14. Insurance. Parent, the Company and its Subsidiaries carry, or are covered by, insurance from insurers of recognized financial responsibility in such amounts and covering such risks as is reasonably believed by the Company to be adequate for the conduct of their respective businesses in all material respects and the value of their respective properties. To the knowledge of the Company, all material policies of insurance of Parent, the Company and its Subsidiaries or their respective businesses, assets, employees, officers and directors are in full force and effect in all material respects; and none of Parent, the Company or any of its Subsidiaries has received any written notice of cancellation or non-renewal of any such policy.

Section 3.15. Litigation. There is no action, suit or proceeding before or by any Governmental Entity, arbitrator or court, domestic or foreign, now pending or, to the knowledge of the Company, threatened against or affecting the Company or any of its Subsidiaries, except for such actions, suits or proceedings that, if adversely determined, would not individually or in the aggregate reasonably be expected to result in a Material Adverse Effect; and the aggregate of all pending legal or governmental proceedings to which the Company or any of its Subsidiaries is a party or of which any of their respective properties or assets is subject, including ordinary routine litigation incidental to the business, are not reasonably expected, individually or in the aggregate, to result in a Material Adverse Effect.

Section 3.16. ERISA. To the knowledge of the Company, each of the Company and its Subsidiaries has fulfilled, in all material respects, its obligations, if any, under minimum funding standards of ERISA, and the regulations promulgated thereunder with respect to each “plan” (as defined in Section 3(3) of ERISA and the regulations thereunder), which is maintained by the Company or its Subsidiaries for its employees, and each such plan is in compliance in all material respects with the presently applicable provisions of ERISA and the regulations thereunder. The Company is regarded as an “Operating Company” within the meaning of 29 CFR 2510.101-3.

Section 3.17. Subsidiaries. Each Subsidiary of the Company is duly organized, validly existing and in good standing under the laws of its jurisdiction of organization and has the requisite power and authority to own, lease and operate its assets and properties and to carry on its business as it is now being conducted. Each of such Subsidiaries is qualified to do business, and is in good standing, in each jurisdiction in which the properties owned, leased or operated by it or the nature of the business conducted by it makes such qualification necessary, except where the absence thereof would not individually or in the aggregate reasonably be expected to result in a Material Adverse Effect. All of the outstanding shares of capital stock or other ownership interests of each Subsidiary owned by the Company are validly issued, fully paid and nonassessable, and such shares or other interests are owned directly or indirectly by the Company free and clear of any Encumbrances. Except as set forth on Section 3.17 of the Disclosure Schedule, there are no outstanding subscriptions, options, warrants, rights, calls, understandings,

restrictions or arrangements relating to the issuance, sale, voting, transfer, ownership or other rights affecting any shares of capital stock of any Subsidiary of the Company, including any right of conversion or exchange under any outstanding security, instrument or agreement.

Section 3.18. Possession of Licenses and Permits. Each of the Company and the Subsidiaries possesses such permits, licenses, approvals, consents and other authorizations (collectively, "Governmental Licenses") issued by the appropriate governmental entities necessary to conduct the business now operated by it, except where the failure to possess such Governmental Licenses would not, singularly or in the aggregate, have a Material Adverse Effect; each of the Company and the Subsidiaries is in compliance with the terms and conditions of all such Governmental Licenses, except where the failure so to comply would not, singly or in the aggregate have a Material Adverse Effect; all of the Governmental Licenses are valid and in full force and effect, except where the invalidity of such Governmental Licenses or the failure of such Governmental Licenses to be in full force and effect would not, individually or in the aggregate, have a Material Adverse Effect; and neither the Company nor any Subsidiary has received any notice of proceedings relating to the revocation or modification of any such Governmental Licenses which, individually or in the aggregate, in the reasonable judgment of the Company, is likely to result in a Material Adverse Effect.

Section 3.19. Independent Auditors. Ernst & Young LLP is Parent's independent registered public accounting firm within the meaning of the 1934 Act and the 1934 Act Regulations.

Section 3.20. Not an Investment Company. To the knowledge of the Company, neither the Company, nor any of its Subsidiaries is, and immediately following consummation of the transactions contemplated hereby and the application of the net proceeds therefrom, neither the Company nor any of its Subsidiaries will be, an "investment company" or an entity "controlled" by an "investment company", in each case within the meaning of Section 3(a) of the Investment Company Act of 1940, as amended (the "1940 Act").

Section 3.21. No General Solicitation. None of the Company or any of its Affiliates (as such term is defined in Rule 501(b) under the 1933 Act, "Affiliates") or any person acting on its behalf has engaged, in connection with the sale of the Purchaser Membership Interests, in any form of general solicitation or general advertising within the meaning of Rule 502(c) under the 1933 Act.

Section 3.22. No Registration. Assuming the accuracy of the representations and warranties of Purchaser made in Article III of this Agreement, it is not necessary in connection with the offer, sale and delivery of the Purchased Membership Interests to register the Purchased Membership Interests under the 1933 Act.

Section 3.23. No Integration. Within the period of the preceding six months prior to the date hereof, neither the Company nor any other person acting on behalf of the Company has offered or sold to any person any securities of the same or a similar class as the Purchased Membership Interests.

Section 3.24. No Other Representations. Except as expressly provided above, or elsewhere in this Agreement, Parent does not make to Purchaser, and Parent hereby expressly disclaims, any representation or warranty of any kind or nature, written or oral, statutory, express or implied, including, without limitation, with respect to Parent, its Subsidiaries or any of their respective assets. Without limiting the generality of the foregoing, except as expressly provided above or elsewhere in this Agreement, Parent does not make any representation or warranty to Purchaser of any kind or nature, written or oral, statutory, express or implied, as to (i) the condition, value or quality of Parent's or the Company's assets, (ii) the prospects (financial and otherwise), risks and other incidents of Parent's or the Company's assets, (iii) the collectibility of any debt or interest in any debt included in Parent's or the Company's assets or (iv) any other matters of any nature whatsoever arising out of or relating to this Agreement and the transactions contemplated hereby.

ARTICLE IV

REPRESENTATIONS AND WARRANTIES OF PURCHASER

Purchaser hereby represents and warrants to Parent that:

Section 4.1. Organization and Qualification. Purchaser is a corporation duly organized, validly existing and in good standing under the laws of the State of New York. Purchaser has all requisite corporate power and authority to own, license, use or lease and operate its assets and properties and to carry on its business as it is now conducted.

Section 4.2. Authority; Non-Contravention; Approvals.

(a) Purchaser has all requisite corporate power and authority to execute and deliver this Agreement and the Operating Agreement and to perform its obligations and consummate the transactions contemplated by this Agreement and the Operating Agreement. The execution and delivery of this Agreement and the Operating Agreement and the performance of the transactions contemplated hereby and thereby have been duly authorized and no other corporate proceedings on the part of Purchaser are necessary to authorize the execution and delivery of this Agreement or the Operating Agreement and the performance by Purchaser of the transactions contemplated hereby and thereby. This Agreement and the Operating Agreement has been duly executed and delivered by Purchaser and, assuming the due authorization, execution and delivery of this Agreement and the Operating Agreement by the other parties thereto, constitutes valid and binding obligations of Purchaser enforceable against Purchaser in accordance with their respective terms (subject to bankruptcy, insolvency, reorganization, moratorium and other similar laws affecting creditors' rights generally and to general principles of equity, regardless of whether enforcement is sought in a proceeding in equity or at law).

(b) The execution and delivery by Purchaser of this Agreement and the Operating Agreement and the performance of the transactions contemplated hereby and thereby do not and will not (i) conflict with or result in a breach of any provisions of the certificate of incorporation and bylaws of Purchaser, (ii) result in a violation or breach of or constitute a default (or an event which, with or without notice or lapse of time or both, would constitute a default) under, or result in the termination of, or the loss of a benefit under or accelerate the performance required by, or result in a right of termination, modification, cancellation or acceleration under, the terms, conditions or provisions of any contract or other instrument of any kind to which Purchaser is now a party or by which Purchaser or any of its properties or assets may be bound or affected, or (iii) violate any order, writ, injunction, decree, statute, treaty, rule or regulation applicable to Purchaser.

(c) No declaration, filing or registration with, or notice to, or authorization, consent, order or approval of, any Governmental Authority is required to be obtained or made in connection with or as a result of the execution and delivery of this Agreement and the Operating Agreement by Purchaser or the performance by Purchaser of the transactions contemplated by this Agreement and the Operating Agreement.

Section 4.3. Restricted Securities. Purchaser understands that the Purchaser Membership Interests have not been registered under the Securities Act or the securities or blue sky laws of any State of the United States or any other jurisdiction. Purchaser also understands that the Purchaser Membership Interests are being offered and sold pursuant to an exemption from registration contained in the Securities Act and any such State or other jurisdictions' securities or blue sky laws based in part upon Purchaser's representations contained in this Agreement.

Section 4.4. Subscriber Bears Economic Risk. Purchaser has such knowledge and experience in financial and business matters so that it is capable of evaluating the merits and risks of its investment in the Company and has the capacity to protect its own interests. Purchaser is able to bear the economic risk of this investment indefinitely.

Section 4.5. Acquisition For Own Account. Purchaser is acquiring the Purchaser Membership Interests for its own account for investment only, and not with a view towards a distribution thereof in violation of the Securities Act; provided, that this representation and warranty shall not limit Purchaser's right to sell the Purchaser Membership Interests in compliance with applicable securities laws and the Operating Agreement.

Section 4.6. Accredited Investor. Purchaser is an accredited investor within the meaning of Regulation D under the Securities Act.

Section 4.7. Information.

(a) Purchaser (i) has been provided with such information regarding Parent and its Subsidiaries that it believes necessary for purposes of making an informed decision to enter into this Agreement and acquire the Purchaser Membership Interests, (ii) has received and carefully reviewed this Agreement, (iii) has been afforded the opportunity to ask questions of and receive answers from duly authorized officers or other representatives of Parent and the Company concerning the terms and conditions of the acquisition, and (iv) has received any additional information which Purchaser or its advisors or agents has requested.

(b) Purchaser is familiar with and understands the terms of its acquisition of the Purchaser Membership Interests pursuant to this Agreement, including the rights to which Purchaser is entitled under this Agreement and the Operating Agreement. In evaluating the suitability of an investment in the Company, Purchaser has not relied upon any representation or other information (whether oral or written) from Parent, or any agent, employee or Affiliate of Parent other than as set forth in this Agreement or the Loan Documents or resulting from Purchaser's own independent investigation. Purchaser understands and acknowledges that nothing in this Agreement or any other materials provided to Purchaser in connection with the purchase of the Purchaser Membership Interests constitutes investment, tax or legal advice. To the extent deemed necessary or advisable by Purchaser in its sole discretion, Purchaser has retained, at its sole expense, and relied upon appropriate professional advice regarding the investment, tax and legal merits and consequences of this Agreement and its purchase of the Purchaser Membership Interests hereunder.

Section 4.8. No Public Market. Purchaser understands that no public market now exists for any of the Company Membership Interests, and that Parent has made no assurances that a public market will ever exist for the Company Membership Interests.

Section 4.9. Legends. Purchaser understands that certificates representing the Purchased Membership Interests and the Option Membership Interests will bear legends required under applicable federal and state securities laws.

ARTICLE V

COVENANTS

Section 5.1. Transfer Taxes. All transfer, registration, stamp, documentary, sales, use and similar Taxes, any penalties, interest and additions to Tax, and fees incurred in connection with the purchase of the Purchased Membership Interests, shall be the responsibility of and be timely paid by Purchaser.

Section 5.2. Public Announcements. Any press release with respect to the execution of this Agreement or the transactions contemplated hereby shall be a joint press release mutually agreed to by Parent and Purchaser. Neither Parent nor Purchaser nor any of their respective Affiliates shall issue or cause the dissemination of any press release or other public announcements or statements with respect to this Agreement or the transactions contemplated hereby without the consent of the other party, which consent will not be unreasonably withheld, except as may be required by law or by any listing agreement with a national securities exchange or trading market, in which case the disclosing party shall provide the other party with a reasonable opportunity to review and comment on any such release prior to its dissemination.

Section 5.3. Further Assurances; Post-Closing Cooperation. From time to time after the Closing, without additional consideration, each of the parties hereto will (or, if appropriate, cause their Affiliates to) execute and deliver such further instruments and take such other action as may reasonably be requested by the other parties to make effective the transactions contemplated by this Agreement and the Operating Agreement.

Section 5.4. Notification. In the event that any party becomes aware of any matter which might, directly or indirectly, give rise to an indemnification claim by the other party pursuant to ARTICLE VII, such party shall promptly notify the other party in writing.

Section 5.5. Reporting Requirements. Parent, the Company and Purchaser acknowledge that the Company is required pursuant to the Loan Documents to provide Purchaser with certain financial and operating data with respect to the monthly, quarterly and annual performance of the Company and its Subsidiaries. If the Loan Documents are terminated or Purchaser and its Affiliates otherwise cease to be entitled to receive such financial and operating data, the Company shall, for so long as Purchaser holds the Purchased Membership Interests acquired pursuant this Agreement, provide Purchaser with substantially the same financial and operating information Purchaser was entitled to receive pursuant to the Loan Documents; provided, that if the Company is providing similar financial and operating data to other lenders or financing

sources, the Company may satisfy its obligation pursuant to this Section 5.5 by furnishing Purchaser with copies of such financial and operating data in the same format as provided to the other lenders and financing sources.

Section 5.6. Tax Status. For so long as Purchaser holds any Purchased Membership Interests or Option Membership Interests, the Company shall not change its election to be treated as a corporation for purposes of the Code.

Section 5.7. Liquidation Provisions. For so long as Purchaser holds any Purchased Membership Interests or Option Membership Interests, the Company shall not, and Parent shall not take any action to, make any material modifications to the Operating Agreement with respect to the liquidation provisions thereof or any provisions which may, in any way, affect Purchaser's right to receive funds in connection with a liquidation or winding up of the Company.

Section 5.8. Intercompany Transactions. For so long as Purchaser holds any Purchased Membership Interests or Option Membership Interests, the Company shall not, and Parent shall not take any action to, transfer any material portion of the Company's operations to an Affiliate.

ARTICLE VI

CONDITIONS TO OBLIGATIONS OF PARTIES

Section 6.1. Conditions Precedent to Each Party's Obligations at the Closings. The respective obligations of each party to effect the Closing or the Option Closing, as applicable, are subject to the fulfillment on or prior to the Closing or the Option Closing, as applicable, of the following conditions, which conditions may be waived, in whole or in part, at the option of the each party to the extent permitted by law:

(a) Consents and Approvals. All necessary consents and approvals of any Governmental Authority or any other Person required for the consummation of the transactions contemplated by this Agreement shall have been obtained; and

(b) No Orders. No statute, rule, regulation, order, decree or injunction shall have been enacted, entered, promulgated or enforced by a Governmental Authority that prohibits the consummation of the transactions contemplated by this Agreement shall be in effect.

Section 6.2. Conditions Precedent to the Obligations of Parent at Closing. Parent's obligation to complete the sale of the Purchased Membership Interests at the Closing is subject to the fulfillment on or prior to the Closing of the following conditions, which conditions may be waived, in whole or in part, at the option of Parent to the extent permitted by law:

(a) Representations and Warranties Correct. The representations and warranties made by Purchaser in Article IV hereof shall be true and correct in all material respects when made, and shall be true and correct in all material respects on and as of the Closing Date, except those representations and warranties of Purchaser that speak as of a certain date or time, provided such representations and warranties shall have been true and correct in all material respects as of such date;

(b) Covenants. All covenants, agreements and conditions contained in this Agreement to be performed by Purchaser on or prior to the Closing Date shall have been performed or complied with in all material respects; and

(c) Closing Deliveries by Purchaser. At the Closing, Purchaser will:

(i) pay the Purchase Price by wire transfer of immediately available funds to such account as Parent may direct by written notice to Purchaser; and

(ii) deliver a duly executed counterpart of the Operating Agreement.

Section 6.3. Conditions to the Obligations of Purchaser at Closing. Purchaser's obligation to complete the acquisition of the Purchased Membership Interests at the Closing is subject to the fulfillment on or prior to the Closing of the following conditions, which conditions may be waived, in whole or in part, at the option of Purchaser to the extent permitted by law:

(a) Representations and Warranties Correct. The representations and warranties made by Parent in Article III hereof shall be true and correct in all material respects when made, and shall be true and correct in all material respects on and as of the Closing Date, except those representations and warranties of Parent that speak as of a certain date or time, provided such representations and warranties shall have been true and correct in all material respects as of such date;

(b) Covenants. All covenants, agreements and conditions contained in this Agreement to be performed by Parent or the Company on or prior to the Closing Date shall have been performed or complied with in all material respects; and

(c) Closing Deliveries. At the Closing:

(i) Purchaser shall have received a duly executed counterpart of the Operating Agreement from Parent;

(ii) Purchaser shall have received from counsel to Parent an opinion in form and substance as set forth in Exhibit B attached hereto, addressed to Purchaser and dated as of the Closing Date;

(iii) Purchaser shall have received from each of Parent and the Company a certificate of the secretary or an assistant secretary, dated the Closing Date, in form and substance reasonably satisfactory to Purchaser, as to (a) true and correct copies of the certificate of incorporation or certificate of formation, as the case may be, (b) the bylaws (or other governing documents) of such party, (c) the resolutions of the board of directors (or other authorizing body or a duly authorized committee thereof) of such party authorizing the execution, delivery and performance of this Agreement and the transactions contemplated hereby, and (d) incumbency and signatures of the officers of such party executing this Agreement or any other agreement contemplated by this Agreement; and

(iv) Parent shall provide Purchaser with an executed certification, in the form and manner set forth in U.S. Treasury Regulation Section 1.1445-2(b)(2), of Parent's non-foreign status.

(d) Post-Closing Deliveries. Within fifteen (15) Business Days of Closing, the Company shall have delivered to Purchaser:

- (i) A certificate representing the Purchased Membership Interests acquired from Parent pursuant to this Agreement; and
- (ii) A counterpart of the Option, duly executed by Parent.

Section 6.4. Conditions Precedent to the Obligations of Parent at Option Closing. Parent's obligation to complete the sale of the Option Membership Interests at the Option Closing is subject to the fulfillment on or prior to the Option Closing of the following conditions, which conditions may be waived, in whole or in part, at the option of Parent to the extent permitted by law:

(a) Representations and Warranties Correct. The representations and warranties made by Purchaser in Article IV hereof shall be true and correct in all material respects when made, and shall be true and correct in all material respects on and as of the Option Closing Date, except those representations and warranties of Purchaser that speak as of a certain date or time, provided such representations and warranties shall have been true and correct in all material respects as of such date;

(b) Covenants. All covenants, agreements and conditions contained in this Agreement to be performed by Purchaser on or prior to the Option Closing Date shall have been performed or complied with in all material respects; and

(c) Closing Deliveries by Purchaser. At the Option Closing, Purchaser will pay the Option Purchase Price by wire transfer of immediately available funds to such account as Parent may direct by written notice to Purchaser.

Section 6.5. Conditions to the Obligations of Purchaser at Option Closing. Purchaser's obligation to complete the acquisition of the Option Membership Interests at the Option Closing is subject to the fulfillment on or prior to the Option Closing of the following conditions, which conditions may be waived, in whole or in part, at the option of Purchaser to the extent permitted by law:

(a) Representations and Warranties Correct. The representations and warranties made by Parent in Article III hereof shall be true and correct in all material respects when made, and shall be true and correct in all material respects on and as of the Option Closing Date, except those representations and warranties of Parent that speak as of a certain date or time, provided such representations and warranties shall have been true and correct in all material respects as of such date;

(b) Covenants. All covenants, agreements and conditions contained in this Agreement to be performed by Parent or the Company on or prior to the Option Closing Date shall have been performed or complied with in all material respects.

(c) Closing Deliveries.

(i) Parent shall have delivered to Purchaser a certificate to the effect that each of the conditions specified above in Section 6.5(a) and (b) is satisfied in all respects;

(ii) Purchaser shall have received from counsel to Parent an opinion in form and substance as set forth in Exhibit B attached hereto, addressed to Purchaser and dated as of the Option Closing Date;

(iii) Purchaser shall have received from each of Parent and the Company a certificate of the secretary or an assistant secretary, dated the Option Closing Date, in form and substance reasonably satisfactory to Purchaser, as to (a) true and correct copies of the certificate of incorporation or certificate of formation, as the case may be, (b) the bylaws (or other governing documents) of such party, (c) the resolutions of the board of directors (or other authorizing body or a duly authorized committee thereof) of such party authorizing the execution, delivery and performance of this Agreement and the transactions contemplated hereby, and (d) incumbency and signatures of the officers of such party executing this Agreement or any other agreement contemplated by this Agreement; and

(iv) Purchaser shall have received a certificate from Parent or the Company representing the Option Membership Interests.

ARTICLE VII

DISPUTE RESOLUTION

Section 7.1. Survival of Representations and Warranties.

(a) The representations and warranties of Parent and Purchaser contained in this Agreement will survive the Closing and the Option Closing. Except as otherwise expressly provided in this Agreement, each covenant hereunder to be performed after the Closing shall survive until fully performed.

(b) No party's rights hereunder (including rights under this ARTICLE VII) shall be affected by any investigation conducted by or any knowledge acquired (or capable of being acquired) by such party at any time, whether before or after the execution or delivery of this Agreement.

Section 7.2. Alternative Dispute Resolution.

(a) Neither party under this Agreement shall commence any action in any court or other forum with regard to an alleged breach of any provision of this Agreement, whether in law or in equity, including, but not limited to, arbitration or litigation, unless and until such party has made a good faith determination that the cumulative damages with regard to all claims (whether or not previously asserted) are equal to or exceed \$100,000 exclusive of interest; provided, however, that in the event that a claim arises (the "Claim"), the damages with regard to which do not equal or exceed \$100,000 exclusive of interest, the party having such Claim shall give written notice of the existence of the Claim to the

other party hereto, upon which all applicable statutes of limitations and all similar statutes shall be tolled indefinitely. No party hereto may raise a defense of laches to any Claim regarding which written notice was sent under this Agreement.

(b) In connection with Claims for which damages are determined in good faith by the claiming party to be between \$100,000 and \$250,000, the party having such Claim shall give written notice to the other party hereto and thereafter the matter shall be resolved as follows:

(i) The parties shall endeavor to resolve the dispute by proceeding at the instance of either to non-binding mediation conducted under the Commercial Mediation Rules of the American Arbitration Association or under such other rules as the parties may promptly agree to employ.

(ii) If the dispute has not been resolved pursuant to the aforesaid mediation procedure within sixty (60) days of commencement of such procedure (which period may be extended by mutual agreement), or if either party does not participate in good faith in mediation, the parties shall submit such dispute to arbitration. Any arbitration required under this Section 7.2 shall be conducted in accordance with the rules of the American Arbitration Association then in effect in the City of New York, County of New York with respect to expedited arbitrations and providing for at least three (3) arbitrators, which arbitrators shall be individuals skilled in the legal and business aspects of the subject matter of this Agreement and recommended by the American Arbitration Association. The parties mutually promise and agree that after any party has filed a notice of intent to arbitrate any dispute under this Agreement and before the hearing thereof, they shall make discovery and disclosure of all matters relevant to the subject matter of such dispute, to the extent and in the manner provided by the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure. Any questions that may arise with respect to the fulfillment of or the failure to fulfill this obligation shall be referred to the arbitration panel for its determination, which shall be final and conclusive.

(iii) The determination of the arbitration panel shall be binding and conclusive on the parties. Each party shall bear the cost of one arbitrator and they shall split the cost of the third arbitrator, provided that if the arbitrator believes that any decision taken by a party is frivolous, the arbitrator may award arbitrator's fees to the prevailing party. Each party shall pay its own attorney's fees.

(iv) Judgment upon the award rendered may be entered in any court having jurisdiction or application may be made to such court for a judicial acceptance of the award and an order of enforcement, as the case may be.

Any party under this Agreement may commence an action, whether in law or in equity (consistent with Sections 8.8 and 8.10 of this Agreement), for a Claim or Claims with regard to which the alleged damages, individually or in the aggregate, exceed \$250,000 as determined in good faith by the claiming party. Each party to this Agreement acknowledges and agrees that bringing an action as set forth above, either as an arbitration and/or in a court, (together with any supplemental and/or appellate proceeding) for breach of contract (or any equitable remedy related thereto) with respect to breaches of the representations and warranties, or violations of the covenants and agreements, contained in this Agreement shall be its sole remedy against the other party(ies) with respect to the transactions contemplated by this Agreement, absent fraud.

(c) Notwithstanding any provision of this Agreement to the contrary, no party shall be liable for any consequential damages, including loss of revenue, income or profits, loss in value of assets or securities, punitive, special, treble, remote, special or indirect damages, or loss of business reputation or opportunity relating to the breach of this Agreement, including for any claim based upon any multiplier of such party's earnings before interest, Tax, depreciation or amortization, or any similar valuation metric.

(d) The parties shall treat any payments with respect to Losses arising from a breach or violation of the representations and warranties contained in this Agreement made pursuant to this Article VII as an adjustment to the Purchase Price for all U.S. federal, state, local and foreign Tax purposes, except as otherwise required by applicable law.

ARTICLE VIII

MISCELLANEOUS

Section 8.1. Notices. All notices, requests and other communications under this Agreement must be in writing and will be deemed to have been duly given upon receipt by the parties at the following addresses or facsimiles (or at such other address or facsimile for a party as shall be specified by notice):

If to Purchaser:

Citigroup Global Markets Realty Corp.
390 Greenwich Street
New York, New York 10013
Attention: Bobbie Theivakumaran
Facsimile: (212) 723-8604

With a copy to:
Attention: General Counsel — Myongsu Kong
Facsimile.: (212) 801-4007

With a copy (which shall not constitute notice) to:

Thacher Proffitt & Wood LLP
Two World Financial Center
New York, New York 10281
Attention: Robert C. Azarow
Facsimile: (212) 912-7751

If to Parent or the Company:

Opteum Inc.
3305 Flamingo Drive
Vero Beach, Florida 32963
Attention: General Counsel
Facsimile: (772) 234-3355

With a copy (which shall not constitute notice) to:

Clifford Chance US LLP

31 West 52nd Street

New York, New York 10019

Attention: Robert E. King, Jr.

Facsimile: (212) 878-8375

Section 8.2. Entire Agreement. This Agreement, the Operating Agreement and the exhibits and schedules hereto and thereto supersede all prior and contemporaneous discussions and agreements, both written and oral, among the parties with respect to the subject matter of this Agreement and constitute the sole and entire agreement among the parties to this Agreement with respect to the subject matter of this Agreement.

Section 8.3. Expenses. Except as otherwise expressly provided in this Agreement, whether or not the transactions contemplated by this Agreement are consummated, each party will pay its own costs and expenses incurred in connection with the negotiation, execution and closing of this Agreement and the Operating Agreement and the transactions contemplated by this Agreement and the Operating Agreement.

Section 8.4. Waiver. Any term or condition of this Agreement may be waived at any time by the party that is entitled to the benefit thereof, but no such waiver shall be effective unless set forth in a written instrument duly executed by or on behalf of the party waiving such term or condition. No waiver by any party of any term or condition of this Agreement, in any one or more instances, shall be deemed to be or construed as a waiver of the same or any other term or condition of this Agreement on any future occasion. All remedies, either under this Agreement or by law or otherwise afforded, will be cumulative and not alternative.

Section 8.5. Amendment. This Agreement may be amended, supplemented or modified only by a written instrument duly executed by or on behalf of each party to this Agreement.

Section 8.6. No Third-Party Beneficiary. The terms and provisions of this Agreement are intended solely for the benefit of each party hereto and their respective heirs, personal representatives, successors or permitted assigns, and it is not the intention of the parties to confer third-party beneficiary rights upon any other Person other than any Person entitled to indemnity under ARTICLE VII.

Section 8.7. Assignment; Binding Effect. This Agreement shall be binding upon and inure to the benefit of the parties named herein and their respective successors and permitted assigns. No party may assign either this Agreement or any of its rights, interests, or obligations hereunder without the prior written approval of the other parties hereto; provided, however, that Purchaser may (i) assign any or all of its rights and interests hereunder to one or more of its Affiliates and (ii) designate one or more of its Affiliates to perform its obligations hereunder (in any or all of which cases Purchaser nonetheless shall remain responsible for the performance of all of its obligations hereunder).

Section 8.8. CONSENT TO JURISDICTION AND SERVICE OF PROCESS. EACH PARTY HEREBY IRREVOCABLY SUBMITS TO THE EXCLUSIVE JURISDICTION OF THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK OR ANY COURT OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK LOCATED IN THE COUNTY OF NEW YORK IN RESPECT OF ANY ACTION, SUIT OR PROCEEDING ARISING IN CONNECTION WITH THIS AGREEMENT AND THE OPERATING AGREEMENT AND THE TRANSACTIONS CONTEMPLATED HEREBY AND THEREBY, AND AGREES THAT ANY SUCH ACTION, SUIT OR PROCEEDING SHALL BE BROUGHT ONLY IN SUCH COURT (AND WAIVES ANY OBJECTION BASED ON *FORUM NON CONVENIENS* OR ANY OTHER OBJECTION TO VENUE THEREIN); PROVIDED, HOWEVER, THAT SUCH CONSENT TO JURISDICTION IS SOLELY FOR THE PURPOSE REFERRED TO IN THIS SECTION 8.8 AND SHALL NOT BE DEEMED TO BE A GENERAL SUBMISSION TO THE JURISDICTION OF SAID COURTS OR IN THE STATE OF NEW YORK OTHER THAN FOR SUCH PURPOSE. Any and all process may be served in any action, suit or proceeding arising in connection with this Agreement or the Operating Agreement by complying with the provisions of Section 8.1. Such service of process shall have the same effect as if the party being served were a resident in the State of New York and had been lawfully served with such process in such jurisdiction. The parties hereby waive all claims of error by reason of such service. Nothing herein shall affect the right of any party to service process in any other manner permitted by law or to commence legal proceedings or otherwise proceed against the other in any other jurisdiction to enforce judgments or rulings of the aforementioned courts.

Section 8.9. Invalid Provisions. If any provision of this Agreement is held to be illegal, invalid or unenforceable under any present or future law, and if the rights or obligations of any party hereto under this Agreement will not be materially and adversely affected thereby, (a) such provision will be fully severable, (b) this Agreement will be construed and enforced as if such illegal, invalid or unenforceable provision had never comprised a part hereof, (c) the remaining provisions of this Agreement will remain in full force and effect and will not be affected by the illegal, invalid or unenforceable provision or by its severance herefrom and (d) in lieu of such illegal, invalid or unenforceable provision, there will be added automatically as a part of this Agreement a legal, valid and enforceable provision as similar in terms to such illegal, invalid or unenforceable provision as may be possible.

Section 8.10. GOVERNING LAW. **THIS AGREEMENT SHALL BE GOVERNED BY AND CONSTRUED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE LAWS OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK WITHOUT REGARD TO CONFLICT OF LAWS PRINCIPLES OF SAID STATE OTHER THAN SECTION 5-1401 OF THE NEW YORK GENERAL OBLIGATIONS LAW.**

Section 8.11. Counterparts. This Agreement may be executed in any number of counterparts, including by facsimile signature thereof, all of which will constitute one and the same instrument.

Section 8.12. Disclosure Schedule. Disclosures included in any section of the Disclosure Schedule shall be considered to be made for purposes of the section of this Agreement to which they apply except to the extent that the relevance of any such disclosure to any other section of this Agreement is reasonably apparent on the face of such disclosure contained in the Disclosure Schedules.

Section 8.13. Interpretation. The parties have participated jointly in negotiating and drafting this Agreement. If an ambiguity or a question of intent or interpretation arises, this Agreement shall be construed as if drafted jointly by the parties, and no presumption or burden of proof shall arise favoring or disfavoring any party by virtue of the authorship of any provisions of this Agreement.

Signatures begin on the next page

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the parties have executed this Agreement as of the date first above written.

OPTEUM INC.

By: /s/ Jeffrey J. Zimmer

Name: Jeffrey J. Zimmer
Title: Chairman, President and Chief Executive Officer

OPTEUM FINANCIAL SERVICES, LLC

By: OPTEUM INC., its sole member

By: /s/ Jeffrey J. Zimmer

Name: Jeffrey J. Zimmer
Title: Chairman, President and Chief Executive Officer

CITIGROUP GLOBAL MARKETS REALTY CORP.

By: /s/ Joel Katz

Name: Joel Katz
Title: Authorized Agent

EXHIBIT A

FORM OF OPERATING AGREEMENT

EXHIBIT B

Form of Opinion of Counsel

SIXTH AMENDED AND RESTATED LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY AGREEMENT OF OPTEUM FINANCIAL SERVICES, LLC

This SIXTH AMENDED AND RESTATED LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY AGREEMENT (the "Agreement") of Opteum Financial Services, LLC (the "Company"), dated as of December 21, 2006 (this "Agreement"), is made and entered into by OPTEUM INC., a Maryland corporation (the "Opteum"), and CITIGROUP GLOBAL MARKETS REALTY CORP., a New York corporation ("Citigroup" and, together with Opteum, the "Members").

RECITALS

WHEREAS, the Company was formed on February 26, 1999 as a limited liability company pursuant to the Delaware Limited Liability Company Act, 6 Del. C. § 18-101, et seq., as amended from time to time (the "Act"), by filing a Certificate of Formation of the Company with the office of the Secretary of State of the State of Delaware; and

WHEREAS, on December 21, 2006, immediately following Opteum's conversion and reclassification of a number of limited liability company interests in the Company from Class A Membership Interests to Class B Membership Interests, Citigroup acquired the percentage and class of limited liability company interests in the Company (the "Membership Interests") set forth opposite Citigroup's name on Exhibit A hereto from Opteum pursuant to and in accordance with the terms of that certain Membership Interest Purchase, Option and Investor Rights Agreement, dated as of December 21, 2006 (the "Purchase Agreement"), by and among the Company, Opteum and Citigroup; and

WHEREAS, the Members desire to amend and restate the Company's Fifth Amended and Restated Limited Liability Company Agreement, dated as of November 3, 2005.

NOW, THEREFORE, the Members hereby declare as follows:

Section 1. Name. The name of the Company is "Opteum Financial Services, LLC." The Board of Managers is authorized to change the name of the Company and may otherwise conduct the business and affairs of the Company under any other name, if it deems it necessary or advisable to do so, provided that it complies with all applicable laws in doing so and so long as such name includes the words "Limited Liability Company" or the abbreviation "LLC". The Company shall notify the Members in writing of any such change or use of other name. In the event that the name of the Company is changed pursuant to this Section, references herein to the name of the Company shall be deemed to have been amended to the name as so changed.

Section 2. Purpose. The Company may engage in any lawful business, purpose or activity permitted under the Act and approved by the Board of Managers, and exercise all the powers and privileges granted by the Act or by any other law or this Agreement, together with any powers incidental thereto, including such powers and privileges as are necessary or convenient to the conduct, promotion or attainment of the business purposes or activities of the Company; provided, however, that the Company shall not directly or indirectly operate or manage a "lodging facility" or a "health care facility" or directly or indirectly provide to any other person (under a franchise, license, or otherwise) any rights to any brand name under which any lodging facility or health care facility is operated, in each case, as set forth in Section 856(l)(3) and (4) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended (the "Code").

Section 3. Term; Continued Existence. The Company shall continue in perpetuity unless sooner dissolved in accordance with Section 19. The Members shall take all actions necessary to ensure the Company's existence as a limited liability company in good standing under the laws of the State of Delaware and under the laws of any other state in which the Company conducts the business and activities authorized in this Agreement.

Section 4. Principal Office; Books and Records. The principal office of the Company shall be located at 115 West Century Road, Paramus, New Jersey 07652 or such other place or places as the Board of Managers may determine. The Board of Managers shall be responsible for maintaining at the Company's principal office those books and records required by the Act to be so maintained.

Section 5. Registered Office and Agent. The address of the registered office of the Company in the State of Delaware is c/o Corporation Service Company, 2711 Centerville Road, Suite 400, Wilmington, Delaware 19808. The name of the registered agent of the Company is Corporation Service Company. The address of the registered agent in the State of Delaware is 2711 Centerville Road, Suite 400, Wilmington, Delaware 19808. The registered agent and the registered office of the Company may be changed from time to time by the Board of Managers.

Section 6. Members. The names, mailing addresses, class of Membership Interest and percentage interests (the "Percentage Interest") of the Members are set forth on Exhibit A hereto. No other person or entity shall be admitted as a member of the Company, and no additional interests in the Company shall be issued, without the approval of Opteum and appropriate amendments to this Agreement, including Exhibit A.

Section 7. Classes of Membership Interests; Reclassification Upon Purchase.

(a) The Membership Interests shall be issued in two classes: the "Class A Membership Interests" and the "Class B Membership Interests". The Class A Membership Interests and the Class B Membership Interests shall be identical in all respects, except that the Class A Membership Interests shall have voting rights and the Class B Membership Interests shall not have voting rights. All or any portion of the Class A Membership Interests may be converted and reclassified by the holder thereof, at any time, into an equal number of Class B Membership Interests.

(b) Pursuant to the terms of the Purchase Agreement, Citigroup acquired Class B Membership Interests from Opteum, such Class B Membership Interests having been reclassified as Class B Membership Interests from Class A Membership Interests by Opteum immediately prior to their acquisition by Citigroup. At the Option Closing (as defined in the Purchase Agreement) and pursuant to the terms of the Purchase Agreement, Citigroup may acquire from Opteum additional Membership Interests constituting an additional 7.49% of the Membership Interests

then outstanding and such Membership Interests shall, immediately prior to such sale by Opteum, be reclassified from Class A Membership Interests to Class B Membership Interests. Following such acquisition, if any, or any other change in ownership or class or any increase or decrease in ownership percentage, Exhibit A hereto shall be amended to reflect the new ownership, percentage and class of outstanding Membership Interests held by the Members as of such date.

Section 8. Liability of the Member. Except as otherwise expressly provided in the Act, the debts, obligations and liabilities of the Company, whether arising in contract, tort or otherwise, shall be solely the debts, obligations and liabilities of the Company, and no Member shall be obligated personally for any such debt, obligation or liability of the Company solely by reason of being a member.

Section 9. Management of the Company.

(a) The Company shall have a Board of Managers (the “Board of Managers”), which shall be the “manager” of the Company (within the meaning of the Act) and the size and composition of which shall be as set forth in this Section 9.

(b) Subject to the delegation of powers provided for herein and the limitations set forth herein, the right and power to manage and control the business and affairs of the Company shall be vested exclusively in the Board of Managers, and the Board of Managers shall have the exclusive right and power, in the name of and on behalf of the Company, to perform all acts and do all things which, in its sole discretion, it deems necessary or desirable to conduct the business of the Company. Except as otherwise required by law, no Member shall have any right or power, by reason of the Member’s status as such, to act for or bind the Company, but shall have only the right to vote on, approve or take the actions herein specified to be voted on, approved or taken by it.

(c) The Board of Managers shall consist of one or more individuals (each, a “Manager”), with the exact number of Managers to be determined from time to time by Opteum in its sole discretion. Initially, the Board of Managers shall consist of the following three Managers: Jeff Zimmer, Robert Cauley and Peter Norden. Each Manager shall be appointed by Opteum in its sole discretion and may be removed by Opteum at any time in its sole discretion. Each Manager shall hold office until such Manager’s death or resignation or removal by Opteum. Any Manager may resign at any time by giving written notice to the Members. Such resignation shall take effect at the time specified therein or, if the time be not specified, upon receipt thereof; and unless otherwise specified therein, the acceptance of such resignation shall not be necessary to make it effective. Vacancies on the Board of Managers resulting from death, resignation, removal or otherwise and newly created Managerships resulting from any increase in the number of Managers shall be filled solely by action taken by Opteum.

(d) A majority of the total number of Managers then in office, whether present in person or represented by proxy, shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business at a meeting of the Board of Managers, and the affirmative vote of a majority in voting power of the Managers present at any such meeting, whether present in person or represented by proxy, at which a quorum is present shall be necessary for the passage of any resolution or act of the Board of Managers. At each meeting of the Board of Managers at which a quorum is present, each other Manager present at such meeting, whether present in person or represented by proxy, shall be entitled to one vote on each matter to be voted on at such meeting. Any action required or permitted to be taken at any meeting of the Board of Managers may be taken by the unanimous written consent of the Managers then in office.

Section 10. Committees of the Board of Managers. The Board of Managers may designate, by resolution, one or more committees. Any such committee, to the extent provided in the resolution of the Board of Managers, shall have and may exercise all the powers and authority of the Board of Managers in the management of the business and affairs of the Company, and may authorize the seal of the Company to be affixed to all papers which may require it. Each committee shall consist of one or more of the Managers. Each member of a committee shall be appointed by the Board of Managers in its sole discretion (but subject to the foregoing sentence) and may be removed by the Board of Managers at any time in their sole discretion. Each member of a committee shall hold office until the member’s death or resignation or removal by the Board of Managers. Any member of a committee may resign at any time from such committee by giving written notice to the Board of Managers. Such resignation shall take effect at the time specified therein or, if the time be not specified, upon receipt thereof; and unless otherwise specified therein, the acceptance of such resignation shall not be necessary to make it effective. Vacancies on a committee resulting from death, resignation, removal or otherwise and newly created positions on a committee resulting from any increase in the number of members of a committee shall be filled solely by the Board of Managers. The Board of Managers may designate one or more Managers as alternate members of any committee, who may replace any absent member at any meeting of the committee. All of the members of a committee then in office (or, in the absence of the member, the alternate member who has replaced the member), whether present in person or represented by proxy, shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business at a meeting of such committee, and the affirmative vote of the member (or the alternate members who have replaced them) shall be necessary for the passage of any resolution or act of such committee. Any action required or permitted to be taken at any meeting of a committee may be taken by the written consent of all of the members of such committee then in office. Each committee shall report its actions to the Board of Managers when so required by the Board of Managers.

Section 11. Officers. The Board of Managers or the officer to which it delegates such responsibility may, from time to time, designate or appoint one or more officers of the Company, including, without limitation, president, one or more vice presidents, a secretary, an assistant secretary and/or a treasurer. Such officers must be employees of the Company or an affiliate of the Company. Each appointed officer shall hold office until: (i) his/her successor is appointed by the Board of Managers or its applicable delegate; (ii) such officer submits his/her resignation; or (iii) such officer is removed, with or without cause, by the Board of Managers or its delegate. All officers shall have such authority and perform such duties as the Board of Managers or its delegates may determine, subject to the terms and provisions of this Agreement.

Section 12. Duties and Liabilities of the Members and Officers.

(a) Neither any Member nor any Manager or officer shall be liable to the Company for any loss or damages resulting from errors in judgment or for any acts or omissions that do not constitute willful misconduct or gross negligence on the part of the Member, Manager or officer. In all transactions for or with the Company, the Members, the Managers and the officers shall act in good faith and in the best interest of the Company.

(b) The Company, its receiver or its trustee (but not any Member personally, if any Member shall act as the receiver or trustee) shall indemnify and defend the Members, the Managers and the officers against, and hold them harmless from, any and all losses, judgments, costs, damages, liabilities, fines, claims and expenses (including, but not limited to, reasonable attorney’s fees and court costs, which shall be paid by

the Company as incurred) that may be made or imposed upon such persons and any amounts paid in settlement of any claims sustained by the Company by reason of any act or inaction which is determined to have been taken in good faith in the best interests of the Company and so long as such conduct shall not constitute willful misconduct or gross negligence.

(c) In the event of settlement of any action, suit or proceeding brought or threatened, such indemnification shall apply to all matters covered by the settlement except for matters as to which it is determined that the person seeking indemnification did not act in good faith in the best interests of the Company or such matter resulted from willful misconduct or gross negligence. The foregoing right of indemnification shall be in addition to any rights to which the Members, the Managers and officers may otherwise be entitled and shall inure to the benefit of the executors, administrators, personal representatives, successors or assigns of each such person.

(d) The Company shall pay the expenses incurred by the Members, the Managers or any officer in defending a civil or criminal action, suit or proceeding, upon receipt of an undertaking by such person to repay such payment if such person shall be determined not to be entitled to indemnification therefor as provided herein. Any right of indemnity granted under this Section 12 may be satisfied only out of the assets of the Company and no Member nor any Manager or officer shall be personally liable with respect to any such claim for indemnification.

(e) The Company shall have the power to purchase and maintain insurance in reasonable amounts on behalf of the Company and the Members, Managers, officers, employees and agents of the Company against any liability incurred by them in their capacities as such.

(f) The provisions of this Section 12 shall not be construed to limit the power of the Company to indemnify its Members, Managers, officers, employees or agents to the fullest extent permitted by law or to purchase insurance or enter into specific agreements, commitments or arrangements for indemnification. The absence of any express provision for indemnification in this Agreement shall not limit any right of indemnification existing independently of this Section 12.

Section 13. Capital Contributions. The Members shall have no obligation to contribute any capital, or to make any loans, to the Company. With the prior approval of the Board of Managers, the Members may, however, from time to time make voluntary capital contributions to the Company.

Section 14. Distributions; Allocation of Profits and Losses. Distributions shall be made by the Company to the Members at the times and in the amounts as may from time to time be determined by the Board of Managers. Distributions shall be made to each Member based on the Percentage Interest held by such Member on the date of such distribution.

Section 15. Tax Matters. At all times, the Company shall be treated as a corporation for U.S. federal income tax purposes and shall take all necessary and appropriate actions to confirm and ensure such treatment including, but not limited to, filing all required U.S. federal income tax returns and elections necessary or appropriate to secure and preserve such treatment. In addition, at all times, the Company shall be treated as a "taxable REIT subsidiary" (within the meaning of Section 856(l) of the Code) and shall take all necessary and appropriate actions to confirm and ensure such treatment including, but not limited to, filing all required U.S. federal income tax returns and elections necessary or appropriate to secure and preserve such treatment. The Company shall not take any action, directly or indirectly, that would adversely affect the Company's ability to qualify as a taxable REIT subsidiary.

Section 16. Transfers. Except as specifically provided in the Purchase Agreement, Citigroup shall not, directly or indirectly, whether voluntarily, involuntarily, by operation of law or otherwise, transfer, dispose of, sell, lend, pledge, hypothecate, encumber, assign, exchange, participate, subparticipate, or otherwise transfer in any manner (each, a "Transfer") all or any portion of its Membership Interests, or any rights arising under, out of or in respect of this Agreement, including, without limitation, any right to damages for breach of this Agreement unless prior to such Transfer the transferee and such Transfer is approved by the Board of Managers, which approval may be withheld in its sole and absolute discretion.

Section 17. Dissolution. Subject to the terms of this Agreement, the Company shall be dissolved, and shall terminate and wind up its affairs upon the first to occur of (i) the election of Opteum or (ii) the entry of a decree of judicial dissolution under Section 18-802 of the Act.

Section 18. Liquidation. Upon dissolution, the Company's business shall be liquidated in an orderly manner. Opteum shall act as the liquidator (unless it elects to appoint a liquidator) to wind up the affairs of the Company pursuant to this Agreement. If there shall be no members, the successor-in-interest to Opteum may serve as such liquidator or may approve one or more liquidators to act as the liquidator in carrying out such liquidation. In performing its duties, the liquidator is authorized to sell, distribute, exchange or otherwise dispose of the assets of the Company in accordance with the Act and in any reasonable manner that the liquidator shall determine to be in the best interest of the Members or their successors-in-interest. The proceeds of any liquidation shall be applied and distributed in the following order of priority:

(a) for the payment of the debts and liabilities of the Company (including any debts and liabilities owed to the Members to the extent permitted under the Act (and the expenses of liquidation));

(b) to the setting up of any reserves that Opteum reasonably may deem necessary for any contingent or unforeseen liabilities or obligations of the Company arising in connection with the business of the Company. These reserves may be paid over by Opteum to any attorney-at-law, as escrowee, to be held by such attorney for the purpose of disbursing such reserves in payment of any of the aforementioned contingencies and, at the expiration of such period as Opteum shall deem advisable, to distribute the balance of such reserves to the Members based on their Percentage Interests; and

(c) thereafter, to the Members based on their Percentage Interests.

Section 19. Right to Partition. To the extent permitted by law, and except as otherwise expressly provided in this Agreement, each Member, on behalf of itself and its successors and assigns hereby specifically renounces, waives and forfeits all rights, whether arising under contract or statute or by operation of law, to seek, bring or maintain any action in any court of law or equity for partition of the Company or any asset of the Company, or any interest which is considered to be Company property, regardless of the manner in which title to any such property may be held.

Section 20. Severability. It is the desire and intent of the Members that the provisions of this Agreement be enforced to the fullest extent permissible under the laws and public policies applied in each jurisdiction in which enforcement is sought. Accordingly, if any particular provision of this Agreement shall be adjudicated by a court of competent jurisdiction to be invalid, prohibited or unenforceable for any reason, such provision, as to such jurisdiction, shall be ineffective, without invalidating the remaining provisions of this Agreement or affecting the validity or enforceability of such provision in any other jurisdiction. Notwithstanding the foregoing, if such provision could be more narrowly drawn so as not to be invalid, prohibited or unenforceable in such jurisdiction, it shall, as to such jurisdiction, be so narrowly drawn, without invalidating the remaining provisions of this Agreement or affecting the validity or enforceability of such provision in any other jurisdiction.

Section 21. Integration. Except as expressly provided herein, this Agreement and the Purchase Agreement constitutes the entire agreement among the parties pertaining to the subject matter of this Agreement and supersedes all prior and contemporaneous agreements and understandings of the parties in connection with this Agreement. Except as expressly provided herein, no prior, contemporaneous, or future covenant, representation, or condition not expressed in this Agreement or in an amendment to this Agreement in accordance with Section 22 shall affect or be effective to interpret, change or restrict the express provisions of this Agreement.

Section 22. Modification, Waiver or Termination. No modification, waiver or termination of this Agreement, or any part of this Agreement, shall be effective unless made in writing.

Section 23. Benefits of Agreement. No person or entity other than the Members and the Company is, nor is it intended that any such other person or entity be treated as, a direct, indirect, intended or incidental third-party beneficiary of this Agreement for any purpose whatsoever, nor shall any such other person or entity have any legal or equitable right, remedy or claim under or in respect of this Agreement. Without limiting the generality of the foregoing, nothing in this Agreement, expressed or implied, is intended or shall be construed to give to any creditor of the Company or to any creditor of any Member or any other person or entity whatsoever, other than the Members and the Company, any legal or equitable right, remedy or claim under or in respect of this Agreement or any covenant, condition or provisions contained in this Agreement, and such provisions are and shall be held to be for the sole and exclusive benefit of the Members and the Company.

Section 24. Interpretation. As used in this Agreement, the masculine, feminine or neuter gender, and the singular or plural number, shall be deemed to be or include the other genders or number, as the case may be, whenever the context so indicates or requires. Sections and other titles contained in this Agreement are for convenience of reference only and shall not define or limit any of the provisions of this Agreement.

Section 25. Binding Effect. This Agreement shall be binding upon and inure to the benefit of the Members and their respective successors and permitted assigns.

Section 26. Actions by Opteum. Any action required or permitted to be taken under this Agreement by Opteum shall require written evidence of such action executed by at least two duly appointed and authorized officers of Opteum.

Section 27. Governing Law. **THIS AGREEMENT SHALL BE GOVERNED BY, AND CONSTRUED IN ACCORDANCE WITH, THE LAWS OF THE STATE OF DELAWARE, WITHOUT GIVING EFFECT TO CONFLICTS OF LAW PRINCIPLES OF SUCH STATE.**

Section 28. Application of the Act. Any matter not specifically covered by a provision of this Agreement shall be governed by the applicable provisions of the Act.

Section 29. Effective Date. This Agreement shall be effective immediately following Citigroup's acquisition of Membership Interests pursuant to the Purchase Agreement.

[Signature appears on the following page.]

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the undersigned has duly executed this Agreement as of the day first above written.

OPTEUM INC.

By: /s/ Jeffrey J. Zimmer

Name: Jeffrey J. Zimmer
Title: Chairman, President and Chief
Executive Officer

CITIGROUP GLOBAL MARKETS REALTY CORP.

By: /s/ Joel Katz

Name: Joel Katz
Title: Authorized Agent

EXHIBIT A

| <u>Member</u> | <u>Mailing Address</u> | <u>Class of Membership Interest</u> | <u>Percentage Interest</u> |
|---------------------------------|--|-------------------------------------|----------------------------|
| Opteum Inc. | 3305 Flamingo Drive, Vero Beach, Florida 32963 | Class A | 92.5% |
| Citigroup Global Markets Realty | 390 Greenwich Street | | |

OPTEUM INC. SELLS EQUITY STAKE IN OPTEUM FINANCIAL SERVICES; EXPECTS SUBSTANTIAL MORTGAGE ORIGINATION COST SAVINGS

VERO BEACH, FL (December 21, 2006) — Opteum Inc. (NYSE:OPX) (“Opteum” or the “Company”), a real estate investment trust (“REIT”) that operates an integrated mortgage-related securities investment portfolio and mortgage origination platform, today announced that it has sold a 7.5% non-voting limited liability company membership interest in the Company’s wholly owned subsidiary, Opteum Financial Services, LLC (“OFS”), to Citigroup Global Markets Realty Corp. (“Citigroup Realty”), a unit of Citigroup Corporate and Investment Banking, for \$4,125,000. The Company also granted Citigroup Realty the option, exercisable at any time before December 21, 2007, to purchase an additional 7.49% non-voting limited liability company membership interest in OFS for \$4,119,500. Separately, the Company today announced that it expects substantial cost savings at OFS as a result of amendments to OFS’ funding facilities with Citigroup Realty.

“We are thrilled that Citigroup Realty, a subsidiary of a world-class financial institution, has partnered with us to drive profitable growth at OFS,” said Jeffrey J. Zimmer, Chairman, President and Chief Executive Officer of Opteum Inc. “We continue to believe in the value of the OFS franchise and are excited by Citigroup Realty’s strong vote of confidence.”

“At OFS, we have long considered Citigroup Realty a strategic business partner and are eager to expand our relationship with them,” added Peter R. Norden, Senior Executive Vice President of Opteum Inc. and President and Chief Executive Officer of OFS. “With lower funding costs and even greater access to capital, we are well positioned to profitably increase our market share as we leverage our multi-channel mortgage origination platform.”

Jim De Mare, head of non-agency mortgages at Citigroup Corporate and Investment Banking, said, “We have worked closely with Opteum Financial Services over the last few years and are excited to partner with them and formalize this alliance.”

For further information, please refer to the Company’s filings with the Securities and Exchange Commission. These filings are available on the Company’s website at www.opteum.com under the “Investor Information” page and also may be obtained at www.sec.gov.

About Opteum

Opteum Inc. is a REIT, which operates an integrated mortgage-related investment portfolio and mortgage origination platform. The REIT invests primarily in, but is not limited to, residential mortgage-related securities issued by the Federal National Mortgage Association (Fannie Mae), the Federal Home Loan Mortgage Corporation (Freddie Mac) and the Government National Mortgage Association (Ginnie Mae). It attempts to earn returns on the spread between the yield on its assets and its costs, including the interest expense on the funds it borrows. Opteum’s mortgage origination platform, Opteum Financial Services, LLC, originates, buys, sells, and services residential mortgages from offices throughout the United States and operates as a taxable REIT subsidiary.

About Citigroup

Citigroup, the leading global financial services company, has some 200 million customer accounts and does business in more than 100 countries, providing consumers, corporations, governments and institutions with a broad range of financial products and services, including consumer banking and credit, corporate and investment banking, securities brokerage, and wealth management. Major brand names under Citigroup’s trademark red umbrella include Citibank, CitiFinancial, Primerica, Smith Barney and Banamex. Additional information may be found at www.citigroup.com.

Statements herein relating to matters that are not historical facts are forward-looking statements as defined in the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995. The reader is cautioned that such forward-looking statements are based on information available at the time and on management’s good faith belief with respect to future events, and are subject to risks and uncertainties that could cause actual performance or results to differ materially from those expressed in such forward-looking statements. Important factors that could cause such differences are described in Opteum Inc.’s filings with the Securities and Exchange Commission, including Opteum Inc.’s most recent Annual Report on Form 10-K or Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q. Opteum Inc. assumes no obligation to update forward-looking statements to reflect subsequent results, changes in assumptions or changes in other factors affecting forward-looking statements.

Contact:

Opteum Inc.
Chief Financial Officer
Robert E. Cauley, 772-231-1400
www.opteum.com