

COFFEE HOLDING CO INC  
Form DEF 14A  
February 28, 2013

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

SCHEDULE 14A

PROXY STATEMENT PURSUANT TO SECTION 14(a) OF THE SECURITIES  
EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934

Filed by the Registrant

Filed by a Party other than the Registrant

Check the appropriate box:

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

COFFEE HOLDING CO., INC.  
(Name of Registrant as Specified In Its Charter)

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

Payment of Filing Fee (Check the appropriate box):

- No fee required
- Fee computed on table below per Exchange Act Rules 14a-6(i)(1) and 0-11.

1) Title of each class of securities to which transaction applies:

2) Aggregate number of securities to which transaction applies:

3) Per unit price or other underlying value of transaction computed pursuant to Exchange Act Rule 0-11 (set forth the amount on which the filing fee is calculated and state how it was determined):

4) Proposed maximum aggregate value of transaction:

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- Fee paid previously with preliminary materials.

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1) Amount Previously Paid:

2) Form, Schedule or Registration Statement No.:

3) Filing Party:

4) Date Filed:

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COFFEE HOLDING CO., INC.  
3475 Victory Boulevard  
Staten Island, NY 10314  
March 1, 2013

Dear Stockholder:

You are cordially invited to attend the 2013 Annual Meeting of Stockholders of Coffee Holding Co., Inc. (the “Annual Meeting”) which will be held on Thursday, April 11, 2013 at 3:00 p.m., local time, at the Hilton Garden Inn located at 1100 South Avenue, Staten Island, New York 10314, for the following purposes:

to elect two directors to the Board of Directors to hold office for the following three years until their successors are elected;

to ratify the appointment of ParenteBeard LLC as the Company’s independent registered public accounting firm for our fiscal year ending October 31, 2013;

to approve the Company’s 2013 Equity Compensation Plan;

to hold an advisory vote on executive compensation;

to hold an advisory vote on the frequency of holding an advisory vote on executive compensation; and

to transact any other business that may properly come before the meeting or any adjournment thereof.

Please vote over the Internet by following the instructions provided to you in the Notice of Internet Availability of Proxy Materials, which we will send to you on or before March 1, 2013, whether or not you plan to attend the Annual Meeting. Alternatively, please complete, sign and return the enclosed proxy card if you requested a paper copy and prefer not to vote over the Internet. Your vote is important regardless of the number of shares you own. Voting by proxy will not prevent you from voting in person (provided you follow the revocation procedures described in the accompanying proxy statement) at the Annual Meeting but will assure that your vote is counted if you cannot attend.

On behalf of the Board of Directors and the employees of Coffee Holding, we thank you for your continued support and look forward to seeing you at the Annual Meeting.

Sincerely yours,

Andrew Gordon  
President and Chief Executive Officer

Notice of Annual Meeting of Stockholders

Date: Thursday, April 11, 2013  
Time: 3:00 p.m., Local Time  
Place: Hilton Garden Inn  
1100 South Avenue  
Staten Island, New York 10314

At our 2013 Annual Meeting, we will ask you to:

1. Elect two directors to serve for a three-year term to expire at the 2016 Annual Meeting. The following directors have been nominated by the Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee of the Board of Directors:

Gerard DeCapua

Robert M. Williams

2. Ratify the appointment of ParenteBeard LLC as Coffee Holding's independent registered public accounting firm for the fiscal year ended October 31, 2013;
3. To approve the Company's 2013 Equity Compensation Plan;
4. To hold an advisory vote on executive compensation;
5. To hold an advisory vote on the frequency of holding an advisory vote on executive compensation; and
6. To transact any other business as may properly come before the Annual Meeting.

The Board of Directors recommends that you vote "FOR" each of the proposals at this year's Annual Meeting.

You may vote at the Annual Meeting (or any adjournment or postponement of the Annual Meeting) if you were a stockholder of Coffee Holding at the close of business on February 25, 2013, the record date. Only stockholders of record at the close of business on the record date are entitled to notice of, and to vote at, the Annual Meeting.

By Order of the Board of Directors,

David Gordon, Secretary

Staten Island, New York

March 1, 2013

You are cordially invited to attend the Annual Meeting. To be sure your vote is counted and assure a quorum is present, it is important that you vote your shares regardless of the number of shares you own. The Board of Directors urges you to vote over the Internet following the instructions in the Notice of Internet Availability of Proxy Materials or, if you requested a paper copy of the proxy materials, to sign, date and mark the enclosed proxy card promptly and return it to Coffee Holding. Voting over the Internet or returning the proxy card will not prevent you from voting in

person if you attend the Annual Meeting.

3

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## General

Coffee Holding Co., Inc. (“Coffee Holding”) is a Nevada corporation. As used in this proxy statement, “we,” “us” and “our” refer to Coffee Holding. The term “Annual Meeting” as used in this proxy statement refers to the 2013 Annual Meeting of Stockholders and includes any adjournment or postponement of the Annual Meeting.

Pursuant to the notice and access rules adopted by the Securities and Exchange Commission (“SEC”), Coffee Holding has elected to provide its proxy statement and annual report to stockholders over the Internet through a “notice only” option. Accordingly, we will mail a notice of Internet availability (the “Internet Availability Notice”) on or prior to March 1, 2013 to our stockholders of record and beneficial owners. The Internet Availability Notice provides instructions on how you may access this Proxy Statement and our 2012 Annual Report on the Internet at <https://www.iproxydirect.com/JVA> or request a printed copy at no charge. In addition, our proxy materials provide instructions on how you may request to receive, at no charge, all future proxy materials in printed form by mail or electronically by email. Your election to receive proxy materials by mail or email will remain in effect until you revoke it. Choosing to receive future proxy materials by email will save us the cost of printing and mailing documents to stockholders and will reduce the impact of our annual meetings on the environment.

The Board of Directors (the “Board” or the “Board of Directors”) is soliciting your proxy to vote at the 2013 Annual Meeting. This proxy statement summarizes the information you will need to know to cast an informed vote at the Annual Meeting. You do not need to attend the Annual Meeting to vote your shares. You may simply complete, sign and return the enclosed proxy card and your votes will be cast for you at the Annual Meeting. This process is described below in the section entitled “Voting Rights.”

The proxy statement and the Notice of Annual Meeting are dated March 1, 2013. If you owned shares of common stock of Coffee Holding at the close of business on February 25, 2013, the record date, you are entitled to vote at the Annual Meeting. On the record date, there were 6,372,309 shares of common stock of Coffee Holding outstanding.

## Purpose Of Annual Meeting

At the Annual Meeting, you will be asked to vote (a) to elect two directors, each to serve for a three-year term that will expire at the 2016 Annual Meeting; (b) to ratify the appointment of ParenteBeard LLC as Coffee Holding’s independent registered accounting firm for the fiscal year ending October 31, 2013; (c) to approve the Company’s 2013 Equity Compensation Plan; (d) to hold an advisory vote on executive compensation; (e) to hold an advisory vote on the frequency of holding an advisory vote on executive compensation; and (f) to transact any other business that may properly come before the Annual Meeting. The Annual Meeting will be held on Thursday, April 11, 2013 at 3:00 p.m., local time, at the Hilton Garden Inn located at 1100 South Avenue, Staten Island, New York 10314. If you need to obtain directions to the Annual Meeting, please contact Leslie Lutz in our Investor Relations Department at (718) 832-0800 or 1-800-458-2233.

## Quorum

A quorum of stockholders is necessary to hold a valid meeting. If the holders of at least a majority of the total number of the outstanding shares of common stock entitled to vote are represented in person or by proxy at the Annual Meeting, a quorum will exist. We will include proxies marked as abstentions and broker non-votes to determine the number of shares present at the Annual Meeting.

## Voting Rights

You are entitled to one vote at the Annual Meeting for each share of the common stock of Coffee Holding that you owned as of record at the close of business on February 25, 2013. The number of shares you own (and may vote) is listed on your proxy card.

You may vote your shares at the Annual Meeting in person, over the Internet or by proxy. To vote in person, you must attend the Annual Meeting and obtain and submit a ballot, which we will provide to you at the Annual Meeting. To vote over the Internet, follow the instructions provided in the Internet Availability Notice. To vote by proxy, you must complete, sign and return the enclosed proxy card. If you properly complete your proxy card and send it to us in time to vote, your “proxy” (one of the individuals named on your proxy card) will vote your shares as you have directed. If you sign the proxy card but do not make specific choices, your proxy will vote your shares FOR each of the proposals identified in the Notice of the Annual Meeting. If any other matter is presented, your proxy will vote your shares as a majority of the Board determines. As of the date of this proxy statement, we know of no other matters that may be presented at the Annual Meeting, other than those listed in the Notice of the Annual Meeting.

If you hold your shares through a bank, brokerage firm or other nominee, you should vote your shares in accordance with the steps required by such bank, brokerage firm or other nominee.

#### Vote Required

Proposal 1 relates to the election of directors. Pursuant to the Company's Bylaws, a nominee will be elected by the affirmative vote of the majority of votes cast with respect to such nominee by stockholders represented and entitled to vote at the meeting. A "majority of the votes cast" means that the number of votes cast "for" a nominee must exceed the number of votes cast "against" such nominee. Abstentions or "Withhold Authority" votes will have no impact on the outcome of voting with respect to Proposal 1. You may not vote your shares cumulatively for the election of directors.

Based on the Company's Bylaws, the affirmative vote of a majority of the votes eligible to be cast present in person or by proxy at the Annual Meeting and entitled to vote is necessary for Proposals 2, 3, 4, and 5. Abstentions and broker non-votes will not affect the results of these proposals.

The Board has determined that a vote in favor of the foregoing proposals is in the best interests of Coffee Holding and its stockholders and unanimously recommends a vote FOR each of the proposals.

#### Stockbroker voting and Effect of Broker Non-Votes

Under the rules of the New York Stock Exchange ("NYSE"), member stockbrokers may vote in their discretion on certain matters on behalf of clients who have not furnished voting instructions. These are called "discretionary" items. In contrast, member stockbrokers may not vote on certain other matters for which they have not received voting instructions from their clients. These are called "non-discretionary" items, and a lack of voting instructions for "non-discretionary" items results in so-called "broker non-votes." The proposal to ratify the appointment of the Company's independent registered public accounting firm (Proposal 2) is considered a "discretionary" item. The proposal regarding the election of directors (Proposal 1) and the proposals to approve the Company's 2013 Equity Compensation Plan (Proposal 3), to approve, on an advisory basis, the Company's executive compensation (Proposal 4), to approve, on an advisory basis, the frequency of future advisory votes on executive compensation (Proposal 5) are considered "non-discretionary" items.

The Board of Directors is not aware of any other matters to be presented for action at the meeting, but if other matters are properly brought before the meeting, shares represented by properly completed proxies received by mail, telephone or the internet will be voted in accordance with the judgment of the persons named as proxies.

#### Changing Your Vote after Voting over the Internet or Revoking Your Proxy

You may change your vote by voting in person at the Annual Meeting even if you previously voted over the Internet. Alternatively, you may change your vote by contacting Issuer Direct Corporation, whose contact information will be provided in the Internet Availability Notice, and then re-voting over the Internet following the instructions provided.

You may revoke your proxy at any time before it is exercised by:

filing with our Secretary a letter revoking the proxy;

submitting another signed proxy with a later date; or



attending the Annual Meeting and voting in person, provided you file a written revocation with the Secretary of the Annual Meeting prior to the voting of such proxy.

If your shares are not registered in your own name, you will need appropriate documentation from your stockholder of record to vote personally at the Annual Meeting. Examples of such documentation include a broker's statement, letter or other document that will confirm your ownership of shares of Coffee Holding.

#### Solicitation of Proxies

Coffee Holding will pay the costs of soliciting proxies from its stockholders. Directors, officers or employees of Coffee Holding may solicit proxies by mail, telephone or other forms of communication. We will also reimburse banks, brokers, nominees and other fiduciaries for the expenses they incur in forwarding the proxy materials to you.

#### Obtaining Copies of the Proxy Materials or the Annual Report on Form 10-K

If you would like a full set copy of the proxy materials in the future or if you would like a copy of our Annual Report on Form 10-K and audited financial statements for the fiscal year ended October 31, 2012 (without exhibits), which was filed with the SEC on January 28, 2013 as amended by that Amendment of our Annual Report on Form 10-K/A, which was filed with the SEC on February 4, 2013, we will send you a copy free of charge via mail or email. Please write to or call:

David Gordon, Secretary  
 Coffee Holding Co., Inc.  
 3475 Victory Boulevard  
 Staten Island, New York 10314  
 (718) 832-0800

#### SECURITY OWNERSHIP OF CERTAIN BENEFICIAL OWNERS AND MANAGEMENT

The following table shows the number of shares of Coffee Holding's common stock, par value \$0.001 per share, beneficially owned by (i) each person known to be the owner of 5% or more of our common stock (ii) each director and nominee, (iii) the named executive officers identified in the Summary Compensation Table included elsewhere in this proxy statement and (iv) all directors and executive officers of Coffee Holding as a group, as of February 25, 2013. The percent of common stock outstanding was based on a total of 6,385,309 shares of Coffee Holding's common stock outstanding as of February 25, 2013. Except as otherwise indicated, each person shown in the table has sole voting and investment power with respect to the shares of common stock listed next to his or her name. The address for each person shown in the table is c/o Coffee Holding Co., Inc., 3475 Victory Boulevard, Staten Island, New York 10314.

Name	Position	Amount and Nature of Beneficial Ownership	Percent of Common Stock Outstanding (%)
<b>Directors and Executive Officers</b>			
	President, Chief Executive Officer, Chief Financial Officer, Treasurer and Director	394,392 (1)	6.2 %
Andrew Gordon			
David Gordon	Senior Vice President – Operations,	413,125 (2)	6.5 %

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	Secretary and Director		
Gerard DeCapua	Director	100	*
Daniel Dwyer	Director	1,100	*
Barry Knepper	Director	0	0
John Rotelli	Director	1,100	*
Robert M. Williams	Director	700	*
All directors and executive officers as a group (7 persons)		810,517	12.6

\* Less than 0.1%

- (1) Includes 344,381 shares owned indirectly by Mr. Gordon through A. Gordon Ventures LLC and 50,011 shares are held by Mr. Gordon as custodian for his minor children.
- (2) Includes 363,185 shares owned by Mr. Gordon directly and 49,940 shares held by Mr. Gordon as custodian for his minor children.

## DISCUSSION OF PROPOSALS RECOMMENDED BY THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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 PROPOSAL 1  
 ELECTION OF DIRECTORS
 

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The Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee of the Board has nominated two persons for election as directors at the Annual Meeting. Each nominee is currently serving on Coffee Holding's Board. If you elect the nominees, they will hold office until the annual meeting in 2016 or until their successors have been elected and qualified or they are otherwise unable to complete their term.

Nominees:

Gerard DeCapua

Robert M. Williams

We know of no reason why any of the nominees may be unable to serve as a director. If any of the nominees is unable to serve, your proxy may be voted for another nominee proposed by the Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee. If for any reason these nominees prove unable or unwilling to stand for election, the Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee will nominate alternates or reduce the size of the Board to eliminate the vacancy.

The Board of Directors unanimously recommends a vote "FOR" all of the nominees for election as directors.

## INFORMATION ABOUT BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND MANAGEMENT

## Individuals Serving on the Board of Directors

Coffee Holding's Board currently consists of seven members. Coffee Holding's Amended and Restated Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws provide that the Board shall be divided into three classes. The Board has nominated two directors for election at the 2013 Annual Meeting.

Name	Age (1)	Term Expires	Position(s) Held With Coffee Holding	Director Since
Nominees:				
Gerard DeCapua	51	2013	Director	1997
Robert M. Williams	53	2013	Director	2005
Continuing Directors:				
David Gordon	48	2014	Executive Vice President – Operations, Secretary and Director	1995
John Rotelli	54	2014	Director	2005
Daniel Dwyer	56	2015	Director	1998
Andrew Gordon	51	2015	President, Chief Executive Officer,	1997

			Chief Financial Officer, Treasurer and Director	
Barry Knepper	62	2015	Director	2005

(1) As of January 31, 2013.

The principal occupation and business experience of each nominee for election as director and each continuing director are set forth below. Unless otherwise indicated, each of the following persons has held his present position for at least the last five years.

Gerard DeCapua has served as a director of Coffee Holding since 1997. Mr. DeCapua has had his own law practice in Rockville Centre, New York since 1986. Mr. DeCapua received his law degree from Pace University. We believe that Mr. DeCapua's legal experience brings significant knowledge regarding legal issues Coffee Holding faces and provide him with the skills and qualifications to serve as a director.

Daniel Dwyer has served as a director of Coffee Holding since 1998. Mr. Dwyer has been a senior coffee trader at Rothfos Corporation, a green coffee bean supplier, since 1995. Mr. Dwyer is responsible for our account with Rothfos. We paid Rothfos approximately \$19.3 million, \$25.3 million and \$31.9 million for green coffee purchases in fiscal 2010, 2011 and 2012 respectively. All purchases are made on arms' length terms. We believe that Mr. Dwyer's experience with the coffee industry will enable him to provide the Board with beneficial insight for Coffee Holding's business development and strategy. Mr. Dwyer's relationship with Rothfos has helped to foster a beneficial relationship between Rothfos and Coffee Holding. Mr. Dwyer serves on the board of directors of the National Coffee Association.

Andrew Gordon has been the Chief Executive Officer, President, Treasurer and a director of Coffee Holding since 1997 and its Chief Financial Officer since November 2004. He is responsible for managing Coffee Holding's overall business and has worked for Coffee Holding for 30 years, previously as a Vice President from 1993 to 1997. Mr. Gordon has worked in all capacities of Coffee Holding's business and serves as the direct contact with its major private label accounts. Mr. Gordon received his Bachelor of Business Administration degree from Emory University. He is the brother of David Gordon. Through his experience as President and Chief Executive Officer of the Company, as well as his 30 years of service with the Company, Mr. Gordon has demonstrated the requisite qualifications and skills necessary to serve as an effective director. We believe Mr. Gordon's extensive experience with, and institutional knowledge of, Coffee Holding and the industry is an integral contribution to Coffee Holding's current successes and its ability to grow and flourish in the industry.

David Gordon has been the Executive Vice President – Operations, Secretary and a director of Coffee Holding since 1995. He is responsible for managing all aspects of Coffee Holding's roasting and blending operations, including quality control, and has worked for Coffee Holding for 32 years, previously as an Operating Manager from 1989 to 1995. He is a charter member of the Specialty Coffee Association of America ("SCAA"). Mr. Gordon attended Baruch College in New York City. He is the brother of Andrew Gordon. Through his 32 years of service with the Company, Mr. Gordon has demonstrated the requisite qualifications and skills necessary to serve as an effective director. We believe Mr. Gordon's extensive institutional knowledge and leadership are invaluable to Coffee Holding's current and future successes. Mr. Gordon's leadership, as demonstrated by the launch of the Specialty Green segment of the business as well as the founding of the SCAA, is a valuable resource for Coffee Holding's business development and future strategy.

Barry Knepper has served as a director of Coffee Holding since 2005. From July 2004 to the present, Mr. Knepper has been the President and Chief Executive Officer of CFO Business Solutions, a management consulting firm. Mr. Knepper was the Chief Financial Officer for TruFoods Corporation, a growth oriented franchise management company from April 2001 through June 2004. From January 2000 through March 2001, he was the Chief Financial Officer of Offline Entertainment, an early stage television and motion picture production company. From 1982 through 1999, he served as the Chief Financial Officer of Unitel Video, Inc., a publicly-traded nationwide high tech service company in the television, film and new media fields. We believe that Mr. Knepper's diversified financial, accounting and business expertise provide him with the qualifications and skills to serve as a director.

John Rotelli has served as a director of Coffee Holding since 2005. Mr. Rotelli has over thirty-five years of experience in the green coffee industry business consisting of procurement from growing countries, every aspect of traffic and warehousing, quality analysis, and knowledge of both suppliers and competitors. Mr. Rotelli is currently the Vice President of L.J. Cooper Company, one of the largest green coffee brokers and agents in North America. He is also a director of the Green Coffee Association. Mr. Rotelli's industry and business experience provides the Board with valuable expertise within the coffee industry as well as beneficial relationships that can help form new beneficial relationships for Coffee Holding.

Robert M. Williams has served as a director of Coffee Holding since 2005. Mr. Williams has been the principal of R. Madison, Inc., a national sales, distribution, development sourcing and business development firm, since 2013. In addition, since 2010, he has served as President of Boconi Bags & Leather, designing, developing and sourcing the company's product, globally. From 2007 to 2010, he served as the Managing Director for all North American and Caribbean design, and developing and sourcing for Knomo London (Knomo US LLC) and from 2003 to 2007, he was President and Licensee for Johnston & Murphy ("J&M") in connection with J&M's expansion of its product line to luggage, bags and accessories. From 2002 to 2003, he was the Executive Vice President, Sales & Marketing for Lodis Corporation, a fine leather goods manufacturer. From May 2001 to January 2002, he was the Vice President of Sales, Central & Eastern North America, of Hartmann, Inc., the leather and luggage goods division of Brown-Forman Corporation, and from 1997 to May 2001 he served as its Director, Personal Leather Goods & Accessories. Mr.

Williams received a Bachelor of Science, Business Administration, Marketing from the University of South Carolina, Columbia in 1981. We believe that Mr. Williams's diverse experience in retail sales, manufacturing, importing and distribution of consumer goods, and related leadership experience will enable him to serve as an effective director.

## Board of Directors Operations and Meetings

The Board oversees our business and monitors the performance of our management. In accordance with our corporate governance procedures, the Board does not involve itself in the day-to-day operations of Coffee Holding. Our executive officers and management oversee our day-to-day operations. Our directors fulfill their duties and responsibilities by attending regular meetings of the Board, which are held on a quarterly basis. Our directors also discuss business and other matters with other key executives and our principal external advisers (legal counsel, auditors, financial advisors and other consultants).

The Board held two meetings and acted by written consent two times during the fiscal year ended October 31, 2012. Each director attended at least 75% of the meetings of the Board, plus meetings of committees on which that particular director served during this period.

## Corporate Governance

Coffee Holding is committed to establishing and maintaining high standards of corporate governance. Our executive officers and the Board have worked together to construct a comprehensive set of corporate governance initiatives that we believe will serve the long-term interests of our stockholders and employees. We believe these initiatives comply fully with the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002 and the rules and regulations of the SEC adopted thereunder. In addition, we believe our corporate governance initiatives fully comply with the rules of the Nasdaq Stock Market LLC (“Nasdaq”). The Board will continue to evaluate, and improve upon as appropriate, our corporate governance principles and policies.

## Code of Ethics

The Board has adopted a Code of Conduct and Ethics that applies to each of our directors, officers and employees. The Code of Conduct and Ethics sets forth our policies and expectations on a number of topics, including:

acceptance of gifts;

financial responsibility regarding both personal and business affairs, including transactions with Coffee Holding;

personal conduct, including ethical behavior and outside employment and other activities;

affiliated transactions, including separate identities and usurpation of corporate opportunities;

preservation and accuracy of Coffee Holding’s records;

compliance with laws, including insider trading compliance;

preservation of confidential information relating to our business and that of our clients;

conflicts of interest;

the safeguarding and proper use of our assets and institutional property;

code administration and enforcement;

reporting, investigating and resolving of all code violations; and



code-related training, certification of compliance and maintenance of code-related records.

The Audit Committee of our Board reviews the Code of Conduct and Ethics on a regular basis, and will propose or adopt additions or amendments to the Code of Conduct and Ethics as appropriate. The Code of Conduct and Ethics is available on our website at [www.coffeeholding.com](http://www.coffeeholding.com) under “Investor Relations - Corporate Governance.” A copy of the Code of Conduct and Ethics may also be obtained free of charge by sending a written request to:

David Gordon, Secretary  
Coffee Holding Co., Inc.  
3475 Victory Boulevard  
Staten Island, NY 10314

## Independent Directors

We use Nasdaq's definition of independence to determine the independence of our directors. For a director to be "independent" under Nasdaq's rules, the director must not be an executive officer or employee of Coffee Holding or any of its subsidiaries, and must not have a relationship that, in the opinion of the Board, would interfere with the exercise of independent judgment in carrying out the responsibilities of a director. Nasdaq's rules also expressly provide that the following persons cannot be considered independent.

a director who is, or during the past three years was, employed by Coffee Holding or by any subsidiary of Coffee Holding;

a director who accepts or who has a family member who accepts any payments from Coffee Holding or any subsidiary of Coffee Holding in excess of \$120,000 during the current fiscal year or any of the past three fiscal years, other than (1) payments for Board service, (2) compensation paid to a family member who is a non-executive employee of Coffee Holding; or (3) benefits under a tax-qualified retirement plan or non-discretionary compensation;

a director who is a family member of an individual who is, or during the past three years was, employed by Coffee Holding or by any subsidiary of Coffee Holding as an executive officer;

a director who is, or has a family member who is, a partner in, or a controlling stockholder or an executive officer of, any organization to which Coffee Holding made, or from which Coffee Holding received, payments for property or services (other than those arising solely from investments in Coffee Holding's securities or payments under non-discretionary charitable contribution matching programs) that exceed 5% of the recipient's consolidated gross revenues for that year, or \$200,000, whichever is more, in the current fiscal year or any of the past three fiscal years;

a director of Coffee Holding who is employed, or has a family member who is employed, as an executive officer of another entity where any of the executive officers of Coffee Holding serve on the compensation committee of such other entity, or if such relationship existed during the past three years; or

a director who is, or has a family member who is, a current partner of Coffee Holding's registered independent public accountants, or was a partner or employee of Coffee Holding's registered independent public accountants, and worked on Coffee Holding's audit during the past three years.

The Board has determined that Gerard DeCapua, Barry Knepper, John Rotelli and Robert M. Williams, a majority of the Board, are "independent" directors under Nasdaq's rules.

Nasdaq's rules, as well as SEC rules, impose additional independence requirements for all members of the Audit Committee. Specifically, in addition to the "independence" requirements discussed above, "independent" audit committee members must: (1) not accept, directly or indirectly, any consulting, advisory, or other compensatory fees from Coffee Holding or any subsidiary of Coffee Holding other than in the member's capacity as a member of the Board and any Board committee; (2) not be an affiliated person of Coffee Holding or any subsidiary of Coffee Holding; and (3) not have participated in the preparation of the financial statements of Coffee Holding or any current subsidiary of Coffee Holding at any time during the past three years. In addition, Nasdaq's rules require that all audit committee members be able to read and understand fundamental financial statements, including Coffee Holding's balance sheet, income statement, and cash flow statement. The Board believes that the current members of the Audit Committee meet these additional standards.

Furthermore, at least one member of the Audit Committee must be financially sophisticated, in that he or she has past employment experience in finance or accounting, requisite professional certification in accounting, or any other comparable experience or background which results in the individual's financial sophistication, including but not limited to being or having been a chief executive officer, chief financial officer, other senior officer with financial oversight responsibilities. Additionally, the SEC requires that Coffee Holding disclose whether the Audit Committee has, and will continue to have, at least one member who is a "financial expert." The Board has determined that Barry Knepper meets the SEC's definition of an audit committee financial expert.

## Committees of the Board

The Board of Coffee Holding has established the following committees:

**Audit Committee.** The Audit Committee oversees and monitors our financial reporting process and internal control system, reviews and evaluates the audit performed by our registered independent public accountants and reports to the Board any substantive issues found during the audit. The Audit Committee is directly responsible for the appointment, compensation and oversight of the work of our registered independent public accountants. The Audit Committee reviews and approves all transactions with affiliated parties. The Board has adopted a written charter for the Audit Committee, which is available on our website at [www.coffeeholding.com](http://www.coffeeholding.com) under “Investor Relations - Corporate Governance.” All members of the Audit Committee are independent directors as defined under Nasdaq’s listing standards. Gerard DeCapua, Barry Knepper and Robert M. Williams serve as members of the Audit Committee with Barry Knepper serving as its chairman. The Board has determined that Barry Knepper qualifies as an audit committee financial expert as that term is defined by SEC regulations. The Audit Committee held four meetings during the fiscal year ended October 31, 2012.

**Compensation Committee.** The Compensation Committee provides advice and makes recommendations to the Board in the areas of employee salaries, benefit programs and director compensation. The Compensation Committee also reviews the compensation of the President and Chief Executive Officer of Coffee Holding and makes recommendations in that regard to the Board as a whole. The Board has adopted a written charter for the Compensation Committee, which is available on our website at [www.coffeeholding.com](http://www.coffeeholding.com) under “Investor Relations - Corporate Governance.” All members of the Compensation Committee are independent directors as defined under Nasdaq’s listing standards. Barry Knepper, John Rotelli and Robert M. Williams serve as members of the Compensation Committee, with John Rotelli serving as its chairman. The Compensation Committee acted by written consent once during the fiscal year ended October 31, 2012.

**Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee.** The Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee nominates individuals to be elected to the full Board by our stockholders. The Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee considers recommendations from stockholders if submitted in a timely manner in accordance with the procedures set forth in Article II, Section 11 of our Bylaws and applies the same criteria to all persons being considered. All members of the Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee are independent directors as defined under the Nasdaq listing standards. Gerard DeCapua, John Rotelli and Robert M. Williams serve as members of the Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee, with Gerard DeCapua serving as its chairman. The Board has adopted a written charter for the Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee, which is available on our website at [www.coffeeholding.com](http://www.coffeeholding.com) under “Investor Relations - Corporate Governance.” The Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee acted once by written consent during the fiscal year ended October 31, 2012.

There are no minimum qualifications that must be met by a Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee-recommended nominee. It is the policy of the Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee to recommend individuals as director nominees who have the highest personal and professional integrity, who have demonstrated exceptional ability and judgment and who will be most effective, in conjunction with the other members of the Board, in collectively serving the long-term interests of our stockholders.

## Compensation Committee Interlocks and Insider Participation

None of the members of the Compensation Committee of Coffee Holding were at any time during or prior to fiscal year ended October 31, 2012 an officer or employee of Coffee Holding or had any relationship requiring disclosure under Item 404 (Transactions with Related Persons, Promoters and Certain Control Persons) of Regulation S-K. None of the executive officers of Coffee Holding served as a member of another entity’s Board or as a member of the

Compensation Committee (or other Board committee performing equivalent functions) during the fiscal year ended October 31, 2012, which entity had an executive officer serving on the Board or as a member of the Compensation Committee of Coffee Holding. There are no interlocking relationships between Coffee Holding and other entities that might affect the determination of the compensation of our executive officers.

## Stockholder Communication with the Board of Directors and Attendance at Annual Meetings

The Board maintains a process for stockholders to communicate with the Board and its committees. Stockholders of Coffee Holding and other interested persons may communicate with the Board or the chairperson of the Audit Committee, Compensation Committee or Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee by writing to the Secretary of Coffee Holding at 3475 Victory Boulevard, Staten Island, NY 10314. All communications that relate to matters that are within the scope of the responsibilities of the Board will be presented to the Board no later than the next regularly scheduled meeting. Communications that relate to matters that are within the responsibility of one of the Board committees will be forwarded to the chairperson of the appropriate committee. Communications that relate to ordinary business matters that are not within the scope of the Board's responsibilities, such as customer complaints, will be forwarded to the appropriate officer. Solicitations, junk mail and obviously frivolous or inappropriate communications will not be forwarded, but will be made available to any director who wishes to review them.

Directors are expected to prepare themselves for and attend all Board meetings, the Annual Meeting of Stockholders and the meetings of the committees on which they serve, with the understanding that, on occasion, a director may be unable to attend a meeting. All of our directors attended the 2012 Annual Meeting of Stockholders.

## COMPENSATION DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS

### Overview of Compensation Program

Our Compensation Committee has responsibility for establishing, implementing and monitoring adherence with our compensation philosophy. In that regard, the Compensation Committee provides advice and makes recommendations to the Board in the areas of employee salaries and benefit programs. The Compensation Committee ensures that the total compensation paid to our executive leadership team is fair and reasonable. Generally, the types of compensation and benefits provided to members of the executive leadership team, including the named executive officers, are similar to those provided to our other officers and employees. Throughout this proxy statement, the individuals who served as President, Chief Executive Officer and Chief Financial Officer (Andrew Gordon) and Executive Vice President-Operations and Secretary (David Gordon) during the fiscal year ended October 31, 2012, are referred to as the "named executive officers."

### Compensation Components

Our compensation program for executive officers consists generally of base salary and annual bonuses. These elements are intended to provide an overall compensation package that is commensurate with our financial resources, that is appropriate to assure the retention of experienced management personnel, and that aligns their financial interests with those of our stockholders. We pay our named executive officers commensurate with their experience and responsibilities.

**Base Salary.** Each of our named executive officers receives a base salary to compensate him for services performed during the year. The base salaries of our named executive officers are established annually by the Board upon recommendation by the Compensation Committee. When determining the base salary for each of our named executive officers, the Compensation Committee considers the performance of the executive officer, the duties of the executive officer, the experience of the executive officer in his position and salary levels of the companies in our peer group. Salary levels are also intended to reflect our financial performance. We have entered into employment agreements with each of the named executive officers that provide for minimum annual base salaries. The named executive officers are eligible for annual increases in their base salaries as a result of company performance, individual performance and any added responsibility since their last salary increase.

Annual Bonus. Our named executive officers are eligible to receive annual cash bonuses. These bonuses are intended to reward the achievement of corporate goals and individual performance objectives. The bonus levels are intended to be competitive with those typically paid by the companies in our peer group and commensurate with the executive officers' successful execution of duties and responsibilities.

## Implementation for Fiscal Year 2012

For the 2012 fiscal year, Andrew Gordon received a base salary of \$324,693 and a bonus of \$65,000. David Gordon received a base salary of \$252,377 and a bonus of \$65,000.

### Compensation Decision-Making Policies and Procedures.

**Decision -Making and Policy -Making.** As a Nasdaq listed company, we must observe governance standards that require executive officer compensation decisions to be made by the independent director members of our Board or by a committee of independent directors. Consistent with these requirements, our Board has established a Compensation Committee all of whose members are independent directors.

The Compensation Committee provides advice and makes recommendations to our Board in the areas of employee salaries and benefit programs. The Compensation Committee has established a formal charter. Compensation consists of three components: (1) base salary; (2) bonuses; and (3) long-term incentives (e.g., deferred compensation and fringe benefits).

The Compensation Committee generally meets at least once each year or acts by written consent. It considers the expectations of the Chief Executive Officer with respect to his own compensation and his recommendations with respect to the compensation of more junior executive officers, as well as empirical data on compensation practices at peer group companies. The Compensation Committee does not delegate its duties to others.

### COMPENSATION COMMITTEE REPORT

The Compensation Committee has reviewed the Compensation Discussion and Analysis included in this proxy statement and has discussed it with management. Based on such review and discussion, the Compensation Committee recommended to the Board of Directors that the Compensation Discussion and Analysis be included in this proxy statement.

Compensation Committee of  
Coffee Holding Co., Inc.

John Rotelli, Chairman  
Barry Knepper  
Robert M. Williams

### COMPENSATION OF DIRECTORS AND EXECUTIVE OFFICERS

#### Director Compensation

Non-employee directors receive \$800 per Board meeting and committee meeting attended in person and \$400 per each Board meeting and committee meeting attended telephonically. Non-employee directors are also reimbursed for travel expenses and other out-of-pocket costs incurred in connection with attendance at Board and committee meetings.

Total directors' meeting and committee fees for the fiscal year ended October 31, 2012 were \$9,200. We do not compensate our employee directors for service as directors. Directors are also entitled to the protection of certain indemnification provisions in our Amended and Restated Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws.



The following table sets forth information regarding compensation earned by our non-employee directors during the 2012 fiscal year.

13

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## Director Compensation Table

Name	Fees	All Other	Total (\$)
	Earned or Paid in Cash \$(1)	Compensation (\$)	
Gerard DeCapua	\$2,400	0	\$2,400
Daniel Dwyer	\$1,200	0	\$1,200
Barry Knepper	\$2,400	0	\$2,400
John Rotelli	\$1,200	0	\$1,200
Robert M. Williams	\$2,000	0	\$2,000

(1) Meeting fees earned during the fiscal year, whether such fees were paid currently or deferred.

## Executive Compensation

The table below sets forth the compensation of each of our named executive officers for the fiscal years ended 2012, 2011 and 2010, respectively.

## Summary Compensation Table

Name and Principal Positions	Year	Salary (1) (\$)	Bonus (\$)	Change in Pension Value and Non-Equity Incentive Plan			All Other Compensation(3) (\$)	Total (\$)
				Nonqualified Compensation (\$)	Deferred Earnings(2) (\$)	(\$)		
Andrew Gordon, President, Chief Executive Officer, Chief Financial Officer and Treasurer	2012	\$ 324,693	\$ 65,000	0	0	\$ 61,459	\$ 451,152	
	2011	370,000	0	0	0	48,416	410,434	
	2010	350,000	90,800	0	0	48,416	489,216	
David Gordon, Executive Vice President - Operations and Secretary	2012	\$ 252,377	\$ 65,000	0	0	\$ 58,508	\$ 375,885	
	2011	259,400	0	0	0	46,735	306,135	
	2010	250,000	75,000	0	0	48,527	373,527	

(1) The figures shown represent amounts earned for the fiscal year, whether or not actually paid during such year.

(2) Includes the amount of interest accrued on defined contribution deferred compensation balances at a rate in excess of 120% of the applicable federal mid-term rate under section 1274(d) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 (the

“Code”) and dividends or dividend equivalents on balances denominated in Coffee Holding Co., Inc. common stock in excess of the dividends paid to stockholders generally during the fiscal year.

- (3) The named executive officers participate in certain group life, health, disability insurance and medical reimbursement plans, not disclosed in the Summary Compensation Table, that are generally available to salaried employees and do not discriminate in scope, terms and operation. The figure shown for Andrew Gordon includes \$31,771, \$14,347 and \$22,478, respectively for a business car lease in 2012, 2011 and 2010; \$10,000, \$9,800 and \$9,800 in employer contributions to the 401(k) plan; life insurance premiums of \$1,431, \$1,431 and \$1,428 for the years ended October 31, 2012, 2011 and 2010 and health insurance premiums of \$18,257, \$14,856 and \$14,710 for fiscal years ended 2012, 2011 and 2010, respectively. The figure shown for David Gordon includes \$12,120, \$7,911 and \$9,900 for a business car lease in fiscal 2012, 2011 and 2010; \$10,000, \$9,800 and \$9,800 in employer contributions to the 401(k) plan, life insurance premiums of \$7,480, \$5,504 and \$5,535 and health insurance premiums of \$28,908, \$23,520 and \$23,292 for the fiscal years ended 2012, 2011 and 2010, respectively.

Employment Agreements. We have entered into employment agreements with Andrew Gordon to secure his continued service as President, Chief Executive Officer, Chief Financial Officer and Treasurer and with David Gordon to secure his continued service as Executive Vice President — Operations and Secretary. These employment agreements have rolling five-year terms that began on May 6, 2005. These agreements may be converted to a fixed five-year term by the decision of our Board or the executive. These agreements provide for minimum annual salaries of \$325,000 for Andrew Gordon and \$254,196 for David Gordon, discretionary cash bonuses, and participation on generally applicable terms and conditions in other compensation and fringe benefit plans. On January 26, 2012, we entered into a letter amendment with Andrew Gordon, which provides for a base salary of \$315,000 for the period January 1, 2012 through December 31, 2012. The employment agreements also guarantee customary corporate indemnification and errors and omissions insurance coverage throughout the employment term and thereafter for so long as the executives are subject to liability for such service to the extent permissible by the Nevada Revised Statutes.

The terms of the employment agreements provide that each executive will be entitled to severance benefits if his employment is terminated without “cause” or if he resigns for “good reason” or following a “change in control” (as such terms will be defined in the employment agreements) equal to the value of the cash compensation and fringe benefits that he would have received if he had continued working for the remaining unexpired term of the agreement. The employment agreements also provide uninsured disability benefits. During the term of the employment agreements and, in case of discharge with “cause” or resignation without “good reason,” for a period of one year thereafter, the executives are subject to (1) restrictions on competition with us; and (2) restrictions on the solicitation of our customers and employees. For all periods during and after the term of the employment agreements, the executives are subject to nondisclosure and restrictions relating to our confidential information and trade secrets.

If we experience a change in ownership, a change in effective ownership or control or a change in ownership of a substantial portion of our assets as contemplated by Section 280G of the Internal Revenue Code, a portion of any severance payments under the employment agreements might constitute an “excess parachute payment” under current federal tax laws. Federal tax laws impose a 20% excise tax, payable by each executive, on excess parachute payments. Under the terms of the employment agreements, we will reimburse the executives for the amount of this excise tax and will make an additional gross-up payment so that, after payment of the excise tax and all income and excise taxes imposed on the reimbursement and gross-up payments, the executives will retain approximately the same net-after tax amounts under the employment agreement that they would have retained if there were no 20% excise tax. The effect of this provision is that we, and not the executives, bear the financial cost of the excise tax and we could not claim a federal income tax deduction for an excess parachute payment, excise tax reimbursement or gross-up payment.

Deferred Compensation Plan for Executive Officers. In January 2005, we established the Coffee Holding Co., Inc. Non-Qualified Deferred Compensation Plan for Executive Officers. Currently, Andrew Gordon is the only participant in the plan. Each executive officer who participates in the plan may defer receipt of all or a portion of his or her annual cash compensation received from Coffee Holding. The deferred amounts are allocated to a deferral account and credited with interest according to the investment classifications made available by the Board. The plan is an unfunded, non-qualified plan that provides for distribution of the amounts deferred to participants or their designated beneficiaries upon the occurrence of certain events. The amounts deferred, and related investment earnings, are held in a corporate account for the benefit of participating executives until such amounts are distributed pursuant to the terms of the plan.

The following table sets forth information regarding nonqualified deferred compensation earned by our named executive officers during the last fiscal year under non-qualified defined contribution plans.

Nonqualified Deferred Compensation Table

Name	Executive Contributions in Last FY(1) (\$)	Registrant Contributions in Last FY(2) (\$)	Aggregate Earnings in Last FY(3) (\$)	Aggregate Withdrawals/ Distributions (\$)	Aggregate Balance at Last FYE (\$)
Andrew Gordon	0	0	4,715	0	528,687
David Gordon	0	0	0	0	0

(1) Executive contributions are included in the Summary Compensation Table under the captions “Salary,” “Bonus” and “Non-Equity Incentive Plan Compensation,” as applicable.

(2) Company contributions are included under the caption “All Other Compensation” in the Summary Compensation Table.

(3) Earnings did not accrue at above-market or preferential rates and are not reflected in the Summary Compensation Table.

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PROPOSAL 2  
RATIFICATION OF ACCOUNTANTS

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The Audit Committee of the Board has approved ParenteBeard LLC as our independent registered accounting firm for the fiscal year ending October 31, 2013. We are not required to seek stockholder approval for the appointment of our independent registered public accounting firm. However, the Audit Committee and the full Board believe it is sound corporate practice to seek such approval. If the appointment is not ratified, the Audit Committee will investigate the reasons for stockholder rejection and will re-consider the appointment. Even if the selection is ratified, the Audit Committee in its discretion may direct the appointment of a different independent registered public accounting firm at any time during the year if it determines that such change would be in the best interests of us and our stockholders.

Representatives of ParenteBeard LLC will be present at the Annual Meeting and will be available to respond to appropriate questions from stockholders.

The Board unanimously recommends that you vote “FOR” the ratification of the appointment of ParenteBeard LLC as Coffee Holding’s independent registered public accounting firm for the fiscal year ending October 31, 2013.

PRINCIPAL ACCOUNTANT FEES AND SERVICES

During the fiscal years ended October 31, 2012 and 2011, Coffee Holding retained ParenteBeard LLC to provide audit and other services and incurred fees as follows:

	Fiscal Year	
	2012	2011
Audit fees(1)	\$ 177,260	\$ 140,006
Audit related fees	0	0
Tax fees	0	15,000
All other fees	0	0
Total	\$ 177,260	\$ 155,006

(1) Audit fees consisted of work performed in connection with the audit of the consolidated financial statements as well as work generally only the independent auditors can reasonably be expected to provide, such as quarterly reviews and review of the annual Form 10-K filings.

**Audit Committee Pre-Approval Policy**

The Audit Committee, or a designated member of the Audit Committee, shall preapprove all auditing services and permitted non-audit services (including the fees and terms) to be performed for Coffee Holding by our registered independent public accountants, subject to the de minimis exceptions for non-audit services that are approved by the Audit Committee prior to completion of the audit, provided that: (1) the aggregate amount of all such services provided constitutes no more than five percent of the total amount of revenues paid by Coffee Holding to its registered independent public accountant during the fiscal year in which the services are provided; (2) such services were not recognized by Coffee Holding at the time of the engagement to be non-audit services; and (3) such services are promptly brought to the attention of the Audit Committee and approved prior to the completion of the audit by the Audit Committee or by one or more members of the Audit Committee who are members of the Board to whom authority to grant such approvals has been delegated by the Audit Committee. Of the services set forth in the table

above, all were preapproved by the Audit Committee.

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PROPOSAL 3  
APPROVAL OF THE COFFEE HOLDING CO., INC. 2013 EQUITY COMPENSATION PLAN

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General

On February 27, 2013, our Board of Directors adopted the Coffee Holding Co., Inc. 2013 Equity Compensation Plan, which we refer to as the 2013 Plan, subject to the approval of our stockholders.

The general purpose of the 2013 Plan is to provide an incentive to our employees, directors, consultants and advisors by enabling them to share in the future growth of our business. Our Board of Directors believes that the granting of stock options, restricted stock awards, unrestricted stock awards and similar kinds of equity-based compensation promotes continuity of management and increases incentive and personal interest in the welfare of our Company by those who are primarily responsible for shaping and carrying out our long range plans and securing our growth and financial success.

Our Board of Directors believes that the 2013 Plan will advance our interests by enhancing our ability to (a) attract and retain employees, consultants, directors and advisors who are in a position to make significant contributions to our success; (b) reward our employees, consultants, directors and advisors for these contributions; and (c) encourage employees, consultants, directors and advisors to take into account our long-term interests through ownership of our shares.

Description of the 2013 Equity Compensation Plan

The following description of the principal terms of the 2013 Plan is a summary and is qualified in its entirety by the full text of the 2013 Plan, which is attached as Appendix A hereto.

**Administration.** The 2013 Plan will be administered by the Compensation Committee of our Board of Directors. The Compensation Committee may grant options to purchase shares of our common stock, stock appreciation rights, restricted stock units, restricted or unrestricted shares of our common stock, performance shares, performance units, other cash-based awards and other stock-based awards. The Compensation Committee also has broad authority to determine the terms and conditions of each option or other kind of equity award, adopt, amend and rescind rules and regulations for the administration of the 2013 Plan and amend or modify outstanding options, grants and awards. The Compensation Committee may delegate authority to the chief executive officer and/or other executive officers to grant options and other awards to employees (other than themselves), subject to applicable law and the 2013 Plan. No options, stock purchase rights or awards may be made under the Plan on or after February 27, 2023, but the 2013 Plan will continue thereafter while previously granted options, stock appreciation rights or awards remain subject to the 2013 Plan.

**Eligibility.** Persons eligible to receive options, stock appreciation rights or other awards under the 2013 Plan are those employees, consultants, advisors and directors of our Company and our subsidiaries who, in the opinion of the Compensation Committee, are in a position to contribute to our success.

**Shares Subject to the 2013 Plan.** The aggregate number of shares of common stock available for issuance in connection with options and awards granted under the 2013 Plan will be 1,000,000, subject to customary adjustments for stock splits, stock dividends or similar transactions. Incentive Stock Options may be granted under the 2013 Plan with respect to all of those shares. If any option or stock appreciation right granted under the 2013 Plan terminates without having been exercised in full or if any award is forfeited, or if shares of common stock are withheld to cover



withholding taxes on options or other awards, the number of shares of common stock as to which such option or award was forfeited, or which were withheld, will be available for future grants under the 2013 Plan. No employee, consultant, advisor or director may receive options or stock appreciation rights relating to more than 250,000 shares of our common stock in the aggregate in any calendar year.

Terms and Conditions of Options. Options granted under the 2013 Plan may be either “incentive stock options” that are intended to meet the requirements of Section 422 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended (the “Code”) or “nonstatutory stock options” that do not meet the requirements of Section 422 of the Code. The Compensation Committee will determine the exercise price of options granted under the 2013 Plan. The exercise price of stock options may not be less than the fair market value, on the date of grant, per share of our common stock issuable upon exercise of the option (or 110% of fair market value in the case of incentive options granted to a ten-percent stockholder).

If on the date of grant the common stock is listed on a stock exchange or is quoted on the automated quotation system of Nasdaq, the fair market value shall generally be the closing sale price on the date of grant or the last trading day before the date of grant. If no such prices are available, the fair market value shall be determined in good faith by the Compensation Committee based on the reasonable application of a reasonable valuation method. On February 27, 2013, the closing sale price of a share of common stock on Nasdaq was \$7.35.

No option may be exercisable for more than ten years (five years in the case of an incentive stock option granted to a ten-percent stockholder) from the date of grant. Options granted under the 2013 Plan will be exercisable at such time or times as the Compensation Committee prescribes at the time of grant. No employee may receive incentive stock options that first become exercisable in any calendar year in an amount exceeding \$100,000. The Compensation Committee may, in its discretion, permit a holder of an option to exercise the option before it has otherwise become exercisable, in which case the shares of our common stock issued to the recipient will continue to be subject to the vesting requirements that applied to the option before exercise.

Generally, the option price may be paid (a) in cash or by certified check, bank draft or money order, (b) through delivery of shares of our common stock having a fair market value equal to the purchase price, or (c) a combination of these methods. The Compensation Committee is also authorized to establish a cashless exercise program and to permit the exercise price (or tax withholding obligations) to be satisfied by reducing from the shares otherwise issuable upon exercise a number of shares having a fair market value equal to the exercise price.

No option may be transferred other than by will or by the laws of descent and distribution, and during a recipient’s lifetime an option may be exercised only by the recipient. However, the Compensation Committee may permit the holder of an option, stock appreciation right or other award to transfer the option, right or other award to immediate family members or a family trust for estate planning purposes. The Compensation Committee will determine the extent to which a holder of a stock option may exercise the option following termination of service with us.

Stock Appreciation Rights. The Compensation Committee may grant stock appreciation rights independent of or in connection with an option. The Compensation Committee will determine the other terms applicable to stock appreciation rights. The exercise price per share of a stock appreciation right will be determined by the Compensation Committee, but will not be less than 100% of the fair market value of a share of our common stock on the date of grant, as determined by the Compensation Committee. The maximum term of any SAR granted under the 2013 Plan is ten years from the date of grant. Generally, each SAR stock appreciation right will entitle a participant upon exercise to an amount equal to:

the excess of the fair market value on the exercise date of one share of our common stock over the exercise price, multiplied by

the number of shares of common stock covered by the stock appreciation right.

Payment may be made in shares of our common stock, in cash, or partly in common stock and partly in cash, all as determined by the Compensation Committee.

Restricted Stock and Restricted Stock Units. The Compensation Committee may award restricted common stock and/or restricted stock units under the 2013 Plan. Restricted stock awards consist of shares of stock that are transferred to a participant subject to restrictions that may result in forfeiture if specified conditions are not satisfied. Restricted stock units confer the right to receive shares of our common stock, cash, or a combination of shares and cash, at a future date upon or following the attainment of certain conditions specified by the Compensation Committee. The Compensation Committee will determine the restrictions and conditions applicable to each award of restricted stock or restricted stock units, which may include performance-based conditions. Dividends with respect to restricted stock may be paid to the holder of the shares as and when dividends are paid to shareholders or at the time that the restricted stock vests, as determined by the Compensation Committee. Dividend equivalent amounts may be paid with respect to restricted stock units either when cash dividends are paid to shareholders or when the units vest. Unless the Compensation Committee determines otherwise, holders of restricted stock will have the right to vote the shares.

**Performance Shares and Performance Units.** The Compensation Committee may award performance shares and/or performance units under the 2013 Plan. Performance shares and performance units are awards, denominated in either shares or U.S. dollars, which are earned during a specified performance period subject to the attainment of performance criteria, as established by the Compensation Committee. The Compensation Committee will determine the restrictions and conditions applicable to each award of performance shares and performance units.

**Other Stock-Based and Cash-Based Awards.** The Compensation Committee may award other types of equity-based or cash-based awards under the 2013 Plan, including the grant or offer for sale of shares of our common stock that do not have vesting requirements and the right to receive one or more cash payments subject to satisfaction of such conditions as the Compensation Committee may impose.

**Section 162(m) Compliance.** If stock or cash-based awards are intended to satisfy the conditions for deductibility under Section 162(m) of the Code as “performance-based compensation,” the performance criteria will be selected from among the following, which may be applied to our Company as a whole, or to an individual recipient, or to a department, unit, division or function within the Company or an affiliate, and they may apply on a pre- or post-tax basis, either alone or relative to the performance of other businesses or individuals (including industry or general market indices): (a) earnings (either in the aggregate or on a per-share basis, reflecting dilution of shares as the Compensation Committee deems appropriate and, if the Compensation Committee so determines, net of or including dividends) before or after interest and taxes (“EBIT”) or before or after interest, taxes, depreciation, and amortization (“EBITDA”); (b) gross or net revenue or changes in annual revenues; (c) cash flow(s) (including either operating or net cash flows); (d) financial return ratios; (e) return on invested capital or assets, total stockholder return, stockholder return based on growth measures or the attainment by the shares of a specified value for a specified period of time, share price, or share price appreciation; (f) earnings growth or growth in earnings per share; (g) return measures, including return or net return on assets, net assets, equity, capital, investment, or gross sales; (h) adjusted pre-tax margin; (i) pre-tax profits; (j) operating margins; (k) operating profits; (l) operating expenses; (m) dividends; (n) net income or net operating income; (o) growth in operating earnings or growth in earnings per share; (p) value of assets; (q) market share or market penetration with respect to specific designated products or product groups and/or specific geographic areas; (r) aggregate product price and other product measures; (s) expense or cost levels, in each case, where applicable, determined either on a company-wide basis or in respect of any one or more specified divisions; (t) reduction of losses, loss ratios or expense ratios; (u) reduction in fixed costs; (v) operating cost management; (w) cost of capital; (x) debt reduction; (y) productivity improvements; (z) average inventory turnover; or (aa) satisfaction of specified business expansion goals or goals relating to acquisitions or divestitures.

At the end of the performance period established in connection with any award, the Compensation Committee will determine the extent to which the performance goal or goals established for such award have been attained, and shall determine, on that basis, the number of performance shares or performance units included in such award that have been earned and as to which payment will be made. The Compensation Committee will certify in writing the extent to which it has determined that the performance goal or goals established by it for such award have been attained.

With respect to awards intended to be performance-based compensation under Section 162(m) of the Code, no participant of the 2013 Plan may receive restricted stock units, restricted shares, performance shares, performance units or other stock-based awards relating to more than 250,000 shares of our common stock in the aggregate in any fiscal year of the Company and the maximum dollar value payable to any participant for a fiscal year of the Company with respect to any awards under the 2013 Plan payable in cash is \$500,000.

Effect of Certain Corporate Transactions. The Compensation Committee may, at the time of the grant of an award provide for the effect of a change in control (as defined in the 2013 Plan) on any award, including (i) accelerating or extending the time periods for exercising, vesting in, or realizing gain from any award, (ii) eliminating or modifying the performance or other conditions of an award, or (iii) providing for the cash settlement of an award for an equivalent cash value, as determined by the Compensation Committee. The Compensation Committee may, in its discretion and without the need for the consent of any recipient of an award, also take one or more of the following actions contingent upon the occurrence of a change in control: (a) cause any or all outstanding options and stock appreciation rights to become immediately exercisable, in whole or in part; (b) cause any other awards to become non-forfeitable, in whole or in part; (c) cancel any option or stock appreciation right in exchange for a substitute option; (d) cancel any award of restricted stock, restricted stock units, performance shares or performance units in exchange for a similar award of the capital stock of any successor corporation; (e) redeem any restricted stock, restricted stock unit, performance share or performance unit for cash and/or other substitute consideration with a value equal to the fair market value of an unrestricted share of our common stock on the date of the change in control; (f) cancel any option or stock appreciation right in exchange for cash and/or other substitute consideration based on the value of our common stock on the date of the change in control, and cancel any option or stock appreciation right without any payment if its exercise price exceeds the value of our common stock on the date of the change in control; or (g) make such other modifications, adjustments or amendments to outstanding awards as the Compensation Committee deems necessary or appropriate.

Amendment, Termination. Our Board may at any time amend the 2013 Plan for the purpose of satisfying the requirements of the Code, or other applicable law or regulation or for any other legal purpose, provided that, without the consent of our stockholders, the Board may not (a) increase the number of shares of common stock available under the 2013 Plan, (b) change the group of individuals eligible to receive options, stock appreciation rights and/or other awards, or (c) extend the term of the 2013 Plan.

#### Federal Income Tax Consequences

Following is a summary of the federal income tax consequences of option and other grants under the 2013 Plan. Optionees and recipients of other rights and awards granted under the 2013 Plan are advised to consult their personal tax advisors before exercising an option or stock appreciation right or disposing of any stock received pursuant to the exercise of an option or stock appreciation right or following the vesting and payment of any award. In addition, the following summary is based upon an analysis of the Code as currently in effect, existing laws, judicial decisions, administrative rulings, regulations and proposed regulations, all of which are subject to change and does not address state, local or other tax laws.

#### Treatment of Options

The Code treats incentive stock options and nonstatutory stock options differently. However, as to both types of options, no income will be recognized to the optionee at the time of the grant of the options under the 2013 Plan, nor will our Company be entitled to a tax deduction at that time.

Generally, upon exercise of a nonstatutory stock option (including an option intended to be an incentive stock option but which has not continued to so qualify at the time of exercise), an optionee will recognize ordinary income tax on the excess of the fair market value of the stock on the exercise date over the option price. Our Company will be entitled to a tax deduction in an amount equal to the ordinary income recognized by the optionee in the fiscal year which includes the end of the optionee's taxable year. We will be required to satisfy applicable withholding requirements in order to be entitled to a tax deduction. In general, if an optionee, in exercising a nonstatutory stock option, tenders shares of our common stock in partial or full payment of the option price, no gain or loss will be recognized on the tender. However, if the tendered shares were previously acquired upon the exercise of an incentive

stock option and the tender is within two years from the date of grant or one year after the date of exercise of the incentive stock option, the tender will be a disqualifying disposition of the shares acquired upon exercise of the incentive stock option.

For incentive stock options, there is no taxable income to an optionee at the time of exercise. However, the excess of the fair market value of the stock on the date of exercise over the exercise price will be taken into account in determining whether the “alternative minimum tax” will apply for the year of exercise. If the shares acquired upon exercise are held until at least two years from the date of grant and more than one year from the date of exercise, any gain or loss upon the sale of such shares, if held as capital assets, will be long-term capital gain or loss (measured by the difference between the sales price of the stock and the exercise price). Under current federal income tax law, a long-term capital gain will be taxed at a rate which is less than the maximum rate of tax on ordinary income. If the two-year and one year holding period requirements are not met (a “disqualifying disposition”), an optionee will recognize ordinary income in the year of disposition in an amount equal to the lesser of (i) the fair market value of the stock on the date of exercise minus the exercise price or (ii) the amount realized on disposition minus the exercise price. The remainder of the gain will be treated as long-term capital gain, depending upon whether the stock has been held for more than a year. If an optionee makes a disqualifying disposition, our Company will be entitled to a tax deduction equal to the amount of ordinary income recognized by the optionee.

In general, if an optionee, in exercising an incentive stock option, tenders shares of common stock in partial or full payment of the option price, no gain or loss will be recognized on the tender. However, if the tendered shares were previously acquired upon the exercise of another incentive stock option and the tender is within two years from the date of grant or one year after the date of exercise of the other option, the tender will be a disqualifying disposition of the shares acquired upon exercise of the other option.

As noted above, the exercise of an incentive stock option could subject an optionee to the alternative minimum tax. The application of the alternative minimum tax to any particular optionee depends upon the particular facts and circumstances which exist with respect to the optionee in the year of exercise. However, as a general rule, the amount by which the fair market value of the common stock on the date of exercise of an option exceeds the exercise price of the option will constitute an item of “adjustment” for purposes of determining the alternative minimum taxable income on which the alternative tax may be imposed. As such, this item will enter into the tax base on which the alternative minimum tax is computed, and may therefore cause the alternative minimum tax to become applicable in any given year.

#### Treatment of Stock Appreciation Rights

Generally, the recipient of a stock appreciation right will not recognize any income upon grant of the stock appreciation right, nor will our Company be entitled to a deduction at that time. Upon exercise of a stock appreciation right, the holder will recognize ordinary income, and our Company generally will be entitled to a corresponding deduction, equal to the fair market value of our common stock at that time.

#### Treatment of Stock Awards

Generally, absent an election to be taxed currently under Section 83(b) of the Code (a “Section 83(b) Election”), there will be no federal income tax consequences to either the recipient or our Company upon the grant of a restricted stock award or award of performance shares. At the expiration of the restriction period and the satisfaction of any other restrictions applicable to the restricted shares, the recipient will recognize ordinary income and our Company generally will be entitled to a corresponding deduction equal to the fair market value of the common stock at that time. If a Section 83(b) Election is made within 30 days after the date the restricted stock award is granted, the recipient will recognize an amount of ordinary income at the time of the receipt of the restricted shares, and our Company generally will be entitled to a corresponding deduction, equal to the fair market value (determined without regard to applicable restrictions) of the shares at such time. If a Section 83(b) Election is made, no additional income will be recognized by the recipient upon the lapse of restrictions on the shares (and prior to the sale of such shares), but, if the shares are subsequently forfeited, the recipient may not deduct the income that was recognized pursuant to

the Section 83(b) Election at the time of the receipt of the shares.

The recipient of an unrestricted stock award, including a performance unit award, will recognize ordinary income, and our Company generally will be entitled to a corresponding deduction, equal to the fair market value of our common stock that is the subject of the award when the Award is made.

The recipient of a restricted stock unit will recognize ordinary income as and when the units vest. The amount of the income will be equal to the fair market value of the shares of our common stock issued at that time, and our Company will be entitled to a corresponding deduction. The recipient of a restricted stock unit will not be permitted to make a Section 83(b) Election with respect to such award.



#### Potential Limitation on Company Deductions

Code Section 162(m) denies a deduction to any publicly held corporation for compensation paid to certain “covered employees” in a taxable year to the extent that compensation exceeds \$1 million for a covered employee. It is possible that compensation attributable to options granted in the future under the 2013 Plan, when combined with all other types of compensation received by a covered employee from us, may cause this limitation to be exceeded in any particular year. Certain kinds of compensation, including qualified “performance-based compensation,” are disregarded for purposes of the deduction limitation. In accordance with Treasury regulations issued under Code Section 162(m), compensation attributable to options will qualify as performance-based compensation, provided that: (i) the stock award plan contains a per-employee limitation on the number of shares for which options may be granted during a specified period; (ii) the per-employee limitation is approved by the stockholders; (iii) the award is granted by a Compensation Committee comprised solely of “outside directors”; and (iv) the exercise price of the award is no less than the fair market value of the stock on the date of grant.

#### Tax Withholding

As and when appropriate, we shall have the right to require each optionee purchasing shares of common stock and each grantee receiving an award of shares of common stock under the 2013 Plan to pay any federal, state or local taxes required by law to be withheld.

#### Option Grants and Stock Awards

The grant of options and other awards under the 2013 Plan is discretionary, and we cannot determine now the specific number or type of options or awards to be granted in the future to any particular person or group.

#### Vote Required

The affirmative vote of a majority of the votes eligible to be cast and present in person or proxy at the Annual Meeting is required to approve Proposal 3.

**THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS RECOMMENDS THAT THE STOCKHOLDERS OF THE COMPANY  
VOTE “FOR” PROPOSAL 3.**

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**PROPOSAL 4**  
**ADVISORY VOTE ON EXECUTIVE COMPENSATION**

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The federal securities laws and the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act of 2010, or the Dodd-Frank Act, enables our stockholders to vote to approve on an advisory (non-binding) basis, the compensation of our named executive officers as disclosed in this proxy statement in accordance with the SEC's rules.

As previously described in detail in the "Compensation Discussion and Analysis," our compensation program for executive officers consists generally of base salary and annual bonuses. These elements are intended to provide an overall compensation package that is commensurate with our financial resources, that is appropriate to assure the retention of experienced management personnel, and that aligns their financial interests with those of our stockholders. Please see the sections of this proxy statement entitled "Compensation Discussion and Analysis" and the "Executive Compensation" for additional details about our executive compensation programs and information about the fiscal year 2013 compensation of our named executive officers.

We are asking our stockholders to indicate their support for our named executive officer compensation as described in this proxy statement and as set forth below:

**RESOLVED**, that the stockholders of Coffee Holding Co., Inc. hereby approve, on an advisory basis, the compensation of the Company's named executive officers, as disclosed in the Compensation Discussion and Analysis and compensation tables (and accompanying disclosures) set forth in this proxy statement.

This proposal, commonly known as "say-on-pay" proposal, gives our stockholders the opportunity to express their views on the compensation of our named executive officers. This vote is not intended to address any specific item of compensation, but rather the overall compensation of our named executive officers and the philosophy, policies and practices described in this proxy statement. The say-on-pay vote is advisory, and therefore not binding on the Company, the Compensation Committee or our Board of Directors. Our Board of Directors and our Compensation Committee value the opinions of our stockholders and, to the extent there is any significant vote against the named executive officer compensation as disclosed in the proxy statement, we will consider our stockholders' concerns and the Compensation Committee will evaluate whether any actions are necessary to address those concerns.

**THE BOARD RECOMMENDS THAT YOU APPROVE, ON AN ADVISORY BASIS, THE COMPENSATION OF THE NAMED EXECUTIVE OFFICERS AS DISCLOSED IN THE COMPANY'S PROXY STATEMENT FOR THE 2013 ANNUAL MEETING OF STOCKHOLDERS PURSUANT TO THE COMPENSATION DISCLOSURE RULES OF THE SEC, INCLUDING THE COMPENSATION DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS, THE COMPENSATION TABLES AND ANY RELATED MATERIAL DISCLOSED IN THIS PROXY STATEMENT.**

PROPOSAL 5  
ADVISORY VOTE ON THE FREQUENCY OF HOLDING AN ADVISORY VOTE  
ON EXECUTIVE COMPENSATION

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The federal securities laws and the Dodd-Frank Act also enables our stockholders to indicate how frequently we should seek an advisory vote on the compensation of our named executive officers. Our stockholders may indicate whether they would prefer an advisory vote on named executive officer compensation once every one, two or three years. These votes are required to be held not less frequency than once every six years.

After careful consideration of this Proposal, our Board of Directors has determined that an advisory vote on executive compensation that occurs once every three years is the most appropriate alternative for the Company, and therefore our Board of Directors recommends that you vote for a three-year interval for the advisory vote on executive compensation for the following reasons:

Our stockholder communications will be enhanced by providing a clear, simple means for the Company to obtain information on investor views about our executive compensation program and provide investors with sufficient time to evaluate the effectiveness of the program, corporate strategies and Company performance; and

An advisory vote every three years encourages a longer-term view of compensation by stockholders by allowing them an appropriate timeframe to evaluate the Company's performance and overall effectiveness of the executive compensation program.

As an advisory vote, this Proposal is not binding on the Company. Notwithstanding the advisory nature of this vote, the Board of Directors values the opinions expressed by our stockholders in their vote on this Proposal, and will consider the outcome of the vote when making its determination as to the frequency of future advisory votes on executive compensation.

THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS RECOMMENDS A VOTE FOR THE OPTION OF ONCE EVERY THREE  
YEARS AS THE FREQUENCY WITH WHICH STOCKHOLDERS ARE PROVIDED WITH AN ADVISORY  
VOTE ON EXECUTIVE COMPENSATION AS DISCLOSED PURSUANT TO THE COMPENSATION  
DISCLOSURE RULES OF THE SEC.

## AUDIT COMMITTEE REPORT

The following Audit Committee Report is provided in accordance with the rules and regulations of the SEC. Pursuant to such rules and regulations, this report shall not be deemed “soliciting materials,” filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission, subject to Regulation 14A or 14C of the SEC or subject to the liabilities of Section 18 of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended.

The Audit Committee has reviewed and discussed the audited financial statements with management.

The Audit Committee has also reviewed and discussed with ParenteBeard LLC, Coffee Holding’s independent registered public accounting firm, the matters required to be discussed by Auditing Standards No. 61, as may be modified or supplemented.

The Audit Committee also has received the written disclosures and the letter from ParenteBeard LLC required by applicable requirements of the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board regarding the independent accountant’s communications with the Audit Committee covering independence, and has discussed with ParenteBeard LLC its independence.

Based on the foregoing discussions, the Audit Committee recommended to the Board of Directors of Coffee Holding Co., Inc. that the audited financial statements be included in Coffee Holding Co. Inc.’s Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended October 31, 2012.

Audit Committee of Coffee Holding Co., Inc.

Barry Knepper, Chairman Gerard DeCapua  
Robert M. Williams

## SECTION 16(a) BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP REPORTING COMPLIANCE

Section 16(a) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended (the “Exchange Act”), requires our directors and executive officers, and persons who own more than 10% of our common stock to file an initial report of ownership on Form 3 and changes in ownership on Forms 4 or 5 with the SEC. Such officers, directors and greater than 10% stockholders are also required by the rule of the SEC to furnish the Company with copies of all Section 16(a) reports they file.

Based solely upon the Company’s review of copies of forms 3, 4 and 5 furnished to the Company and, as applicable written representations from executive officers and directors of the Company, the Company believes that all of its directors, executive officers and any other applicable stockholders timely filed all reports required by Section 16(a) of the Exchange Act during the fiscal year ended October 31, 2012, except for a late Form 5 that was subsequently filed by David Gordon on January 11, 2012.

## TRANSACTIONS WITH RELATED PERSONS, PROMOTERS AND CERTAIN CONTROL PERSONS

The Company has engaged Generations Coffee Company, LLC (“GCC”), with which the Company has a joint venture, as an outside contractor. Coffee Holding is the 60% equity owner of the joint venture and GCC owns the other 40% equity interest. Payments to GCC during the year ended October 31, 2012 amounted to \$577,446 for the processing of finished goods.

Mr. Dwyer is a senior coffee trader for Rothfos Corporation, a coffee trading company (“Rothfos”). Mr. Dwyer is responsible for our account with Rothfos. We paid Rothfos approximately \$19.3 million, \$25.3 million and \$31.9 million for green coffee purchases in fiscal 2010, 2011 and 2012, respectively. Rothfos accounted for approximately \$2,460,000, \$2,041,000 and \$474,000 of the Company’s accounts payable at October 31, 2012, 2011 and 2010, respectively. All purchases are made on arms’ length terms.

We believe that the transactions set forth above were made on terms no less favorable to us than could have been obtained from unaffiliated third parties. All transactions between us and our officers, directors and principal stockholders and their affiliates are subject to approval by an independent committee of our Board of Directors.

## BOARD LEADERSHIP STRUCTURE AND ROLE IN RISK OVERSIGHT

Andrew Gordon serves as both our principal executive officer and chairman at the pleasure of the Board. The directors have determined that Mr. Gordon's experience in our industry and in corporate transactions, and his personal commitment to Coffee Holding as an investor, and employee, make him uniquely qualified to supervise our operations and to execute our business strategies. The Board is also cognizant of Coffee Holding's relatively small size compared to its publicly traded competitors. Management's activities are monitored by standing committees of the Board, principally the Audit Committee, the Compensation Committee and the Nominating and Corporate Governance Committees. Each of these committees is comprised solely of independent directors. For these reasons, the directors deem this leadership structure appropriate for us. The independent directors select one independent director to serve as the presiding director at the executive sessions of the Board, which are held without non-independent directors. However, the Board has not designated a lead independent director.

## ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

### Information About Stockholder Proposals

Stockholders may submit proposals for consideration at the 2014 Annual Meeting. In order to be included in our proxy statement for the 2014 Annual Meeting, we must receive such proposal no later than October 31, 2013. Proposals should be addressed to David Gordon, Secretary, Coffee Holding Co., Inc., 3475 Victory Boulevard, Staten Island, NY 10314. SEC rules contain standards as to whether stockholder proposals are required to be included in the proxy statement. Any such proposal will be subject to 17 C.F.R. § 240.14a-8 of the rules and regulations promulgated by the SEC.

In addition, if you wish to submit a proposal to the 2014 Annual Meeting without including such proposal in the proxy statement for that meeting, that proposal will be considered untimely, and the proxies solicited by the Board will confer discretionary authority to vote on the proposal as the proxies solicited see fit, unless you have given notice in writing to the Secretary of Coffee Holding, mailed David Gordon, Secretary, Coffee Holding Co., Inc., 3475 Victory Boulevard, Staten Island, NY 10314, and such notice is received by January 17, 2014.

By Order of the Board of Directors,

David Gordon  
Secretary

Staten Island, New York  
March 1, 2013

To assure that your shares are represented at the Annual Meeting, please either a) vote over the Internet following the instructions provided to you in the Internet Availability Notice or b) if you requested a paper copy of the proxy materials, complete, sign, date and promptly return the accompanying proxy card to Coffee Holdings.

ANNEX A

2013 EQUITY COMPENSATION PLAN

COFFEE HOLDING CO., INC.

2013 EQUITY COMPENSATION PLAN

1. Establishment and Purpose

The purpose of the Coffee Holding Co., Inc. 2013 Equity Incentive Plan (the “Plan”) is to provide a means whereby eligible employees, officers, non-employee directors and other individual service providers develop a sense of proprietorship and personal involvement in the development and financial success of the Company and to encourage them to devote their best efforts to the business of the Company, thereby advancing the interests of the Company and its shareholders. The Company, by means of the Plan, seeks to retain the services of such eligible persons and to provide incentives for such persons to exert maximum efforts for the success of the Company and its Subsidiaries.

The Plan permits the grant of Nonqualified Stock Options, Incentive Stock Options, Stock Appreciation Rights, Restricted Stock, Stock Units, Performance Shares, Performance Units, Incentive Bonus Awards, Other Cash-Based Awards and Other Stock-Based Awards. This Plan shall become effective upon the date set forth in Section 18.1 hereof.

2. Definitions

Wherever the following capitalized terms are used in the Plan, they shall have the meanings specified below:

2.1 “Affiliate” means, with respect to a Person, a Person that directly or indirectly Controls, or is Controlled by, or is under common Control with, such Person.

2.2 “Applicable Law” means the requirements relating to the administration of equity-based awards or equity compensation plans under U.S. state corporate laws, U.S. federal and state securities laws, the Code, any stock exchange or quotation system on which the Common Stock is listed or quoted and the applicable laws of any foreign country or jurisdiction where Awards are, or will be, granted under the Plan.

2.3 “Award” means an award of a Stock Option, Stock Appreciation Right, Restricted Stock, Stock Unit, Performance Share, Performance Unit, Incentive Bonus Award, Other Cash-Based Award and/or Other Stock-Based Award granted under the Plan.

2.4 “Award Agreement” means either (i) a written or electronic agreement entered into between the Company and a Participant setting forth the terms and conditions of an Award including any amendment or modification thereof, or (ii) a written or electronic statement issued by the Company to a Participant describing the terms and provisions of such Award, including any amendment or modification thereof. The Committee may provide for the use of electronic, internet or other non-paper Award Agreements, and the use of electronic, internet or other non-paper means for the acceptance thereof and actions thereunder by a Participant. Each Award Agreement shall be subject to the terms and conditions of the Plan and need not be identical.



2.5 “Board” means the Board of Directors of the Company.

2.6 “Change in Control” means, unless otherwise provided in an Award Agreement, the occurrence of any one of the following events:

- (i) any “person,” including a “group” (as such terms are 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 the Company, any trustee, fiduciary or other person or entity holding securities under any employee benefit plan or trust of the Company or any such entity, and, with respect to any particular Participant, the Participant and any “group” (as such term is used in Section 13(d)(3) of the Exchange Act) of which the Participant is a member), is or becomes the “beneficial owner” (as defined in Rule 13(d)(3) under the Exchange Act), directly or indirectly, of securities of the Company representing 50% or more of either (A) the combined voting power of the Company’s then outstanding securities or (B) the then outstanding shares of Common Stock (in either such case other than as a result of an acquisition of securities directly from the Company); or
- (ii) any consolidation or merger of the Company where the shareholders of the Company, 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); 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 the Company, other than a sale or disposition by the Company of all or substantially all of the Company’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 above) in substantially the same proportion as their ownership of the Company immediately prior to such sale or (B) the approval by shareholders of the Company of any plan or proposal for the liquidation or dissolution of the Company; or
- (iv) the members of the Board at the beginning of any consecutive 24-calendar-month period (the “Incumbent Directors”) cease for any reason other than due to death to constitute at least a majority of the members of the Board; provided that any Director whose election, or nomination for election by the Company’s shareholders, was approved or ratified by a vote of at least a majority of the members of the Board then still in office who were members of the Board at the beginning of such 24-calendar-month period, shall be deemed to be an Incumbent Director.

Notwithstanding the foregoing, no event or condition shall constitute a Change in Control to the extent that, if it were, a 20% tax would be imposed under Section 409A of the Code; provided that, in such a case, the event or condition shall continue to constitute a Change in Control to the maximum extent possible (e.g., if applicable, in respect of vesting without an acceleration of distribution) without causing the imposition of such 20% tax.

2.7 “Code” means the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended. For purposes of this Plan, references to sections of the Code shall be deemed to include references to any applicable regulations thereunder and any successor or similar provision.

2.8 “Committee” means the committee of the Board delegated with the authority to administer the Plan, or the full Board, as provided in Section 3 of the Plan. With respect to any decision involving an Award intended to satisfy the requirements of Section 162(m) of the Code, the Committee shall consist of two or more directors of the Company who are “outside directors” within the meaning of Section 162(m) of the Code. With respect to any decision relating to a Reporting Person, the Committee shall consist solely of two or more directors who are disinterested within the meaning of Rule 16b-3 promulgated under the Exchange Act, as amended from time to time, or any successor provision. The fact that a Committee member shall fail to qualify under any of these requirements shall not invalidate an Award if the Award is otherwise validly made under the Plan. The Board may at any time appoint additional members to the Committee, remove and replace members of the Committee with or without cause, and fill vacancies on the Committee however caused.

2.9 “Common Stock” means the Company’s common stock, par value \$.001 per share.

2.10 “Company” means Coffee Holding Co., Inc., a Nevada corporation, and any successor thereto as provided in Section 16.8.

2.11 “Control” means, as to any Person, the power to direct or cause the direction of the management and policies of such Person, or the power to appoint directors of the Company, whether through the ownership of voting securities, by contract or otherwise (the terms “Controlled by” and “under common Control with” shall have correlative meanings).

2.12 “Date of Grant” means the date on which an Award under the Plan is granted by the Committee, or such later date as the Committee may specify to be the effective date of an Award.

2.13 “Disability” means a Participant being considered “disabled” within the meaning of Section 409A of the Code and Treasury Regulation 1.409A-3(i)(4), as well as any successor regulation or interpretation.

2.14 “Effective Date” means the date set forth in Section 18.1 hereof.

2.15 “Eligible Person” means any person who is an employee, officer, director, consultant, advisor or other individual service provider of the Company or any Subsidiary, or any person who is determined by the Committee to be a prospective employee, officer, director, consultant, advisor or other individual service provider of the Company or any Subsidiary.

2.16 “Exchange Act” means the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended.

2.17 “Fair Market Value” of a share of Common Stock shall be, as applied to a specific Date of Grant (i) the closing price of a share of Common Stock on such Date of Grant, or if applicable, the most recent date preceding such Date of Grant, on which trades of the Common Stock were recorded on the principal established stock exchange or national market system on which the Common Stock is then traded, or (ii) if the shares of Common Stock are not then traded on an established stock exchange or national market system but are then traded in an over-the-counter market, the average of the closing bid and asked prices for the shares of Common Stock in such over-the-counter market on the most recent date preceding such Date of Grant on which such closing bid and asked prices are available on such over-the-counter market or (iii) if the shares of Common Stock are not then listed on a national securities exchange or national market system or traded in an over-the-counter market, the price of a share of Common Stock as determined by the Committee in its discretion in a manner consistent with Section 409A of the Code and Treasury Regulation 1.409A-1(b)(5)(iv), as well as any successor regulation or interpretation.

2.18 “Incentive Bonus Award” means an Award granted under Section 12 of the Plan.

2.19 “Incentive Stock Option” means a Stock Option granted under Section 6 hereof that is intended to meet the requirements of Section 422 of the Code and the regulations promulgated thereunder.

2.20 “Nonqualified Stock Option” means a Stock Option granted under Section 6 hereof that is not an Incentive Stock Option.

2.21 “Other Cash-Based Award” means a contractual right granted to an Eligible Person under Section 13 hereof entitling such Eligible Person to receive a cash payment at such times, and subject to such conditions, as are set forth in the Plan and the applicable Award Agreement.

2.22 “Other Stock-Based Award” means a contractual right granted to an Eligible Person under Section 13 representing a notional unit interest equal in value to a share of Common Stock to be paid and distributed at such times, and subject to such conditions as are set forth in the Plan and the applicable Award Agreement.

2.23 “Participant” means any Eligible Person who holds an outstanding Award under the Plan.

2.24 “Person” shall mean any individual, partnership, firm, trust, corporation, limited liability company or other similar entity. When two or more Persons act as a partnership, limited partnership, syndicate or other group for the purpose of acquiring, holding or disposing of Common Stock, such partnership, limited partnership, syndicate or group shall be deemed a “Person”

2.25 “Performance Measures” mean the measures of performance of the Company and its Subsidiaries as more fully described in Section 14 of the Plan and Exhibit A hereto.

2.26 “Performance Shares” means a contractual right granted to an Eligible Person under Section 10 hereof representing a notional unit interest equal in value to a share of Common Stock to be paid and distributed at such times, and subject to such conditions, as are set forth in the Plan and the applicable Award Agreement.

2.27 “Performance Unit” means a contractual right granted to an Eligible Person under Section 11 hereof representing a notional dollar interest as determined by the Committee to be paid and distributed at such times, and subject to such conditions, as are set forth in the Plan and the applicable Award Agreement.

2.28 “Plan” means this Coffee Holdings Co., Inc. 2013 Equity Incentive Plan, as it may be amended from time to time.

2.29 “Reporting Person” means an officer, director or greater than ten percent shareholder of the Company within the meaning of Rule 16a-2 under the Exchange Act, who is required to file reports pursuant to Rule 16a-3 under the Exchange Act.

2.30 “Restricted Stock Award” means a grant of shares of Common Stock to an Eligible Person under Section 8 hereof that are issued subject to such vesting and transfer restrictions and such other conditions as are set forth in the Plan and the applicable Award Agreement.

2.31 “Securities Act” means the Securities Act of 1933, as amended.

2.32 “Service” means a Participant’s employment or other service relationship with the Company or any Subsidiary.

2.33 “Stock Appreciation Right” means a contractual right granted to an Eligible Person under Section 7 hereof entitling such Eligible Person to receive a payment, upon the exercise of such right, in such amount and at such time, and subject to such conditions, as are set forth in the Plan and the applicable Award Agreement.

2.34 “Stock Option” means a contractual right granted to an Eligible Person under Section 6 hereof to purchase shares of Common Stock at such time and price, and subject to such conditions, as are set forth in the Plan and the applicable Award Agreement.

2.35 “Stock Unit Award” means a contractual right granted to an Eligible Person under Section 9 hereof representing notional unit interests equal in value to a share of Common Stock to be paid and distributed at such times, and subject to such conditions, as are set forth in the Plan and the applicable Award Agreement.

2.36 “Stockholders” Agreement” means an agreement between a Participant and the Company as contemplated by Section 16.11.

2.37 “Subsidiary” means an entity (whether or not a corporation) that is wholly or majority owned or controlled, directly or indirectly, by the Company; provided, however, that with respect to Incentive Stock Options, the term “Subsidiary” shall include only an entity that qualifies under section 424(f) of the Code as a “subsidiary corporation” with respect to the Company.

### 3. Administration

3.1 Committee Members. The Plan shall be administered by the Committee; provided that the entire Board may act in lieu of the Committee on any matter, subject to Code Section 162(m) and 16b-3 Award requirements referred to in Section 2.8 of the Plan. If and to the extent permitted by Applicable Law, the Committee may authorize one or more Reporting Persons (or other officers) to make Awards to Eligible Persons who are not Reporting Persons (or other officers whom the Committee has specifically authorized to make Awards). Subject to Applicable Law and the restrictions set forth in the Plan, the Committee may delegate administrative functions to individuals who are Reporting Persons, officers, or employees of the Company or its Subsidiaries.

3.2 Committee Authority. The Committee shall have such powers and authority as may be necessary or appropriate for the Committee to carry out its functions as described in the Plan. Subject to the express limitations of the Plan, the Committee shall have authority in its discretion to determine the Eligible Persons to whom, and the time or times at which, Awards may be granted, the number of shares, units or other rights subject to each Award, the exercise, base or purchase price of an Award (if any), the time or times at which an Award will become vested, exercisable or payable, the performance criteria, performance goals and other conditions of an Award, the duration of the Award, and all other terms of the Award. Subject to the terms of the Plan, the Committee shall have the authority to amend the terms of an Award in any manner that is not inconsistent with the Plan (including to extend the post-termination exercisability period of Stock Options and Stock Appreciation Rights), provided that no such action shall adversely affect the rights of a Participant with respect to an outstanding Award without the Participant’s consent. The Committee shall also have discretionary authority to interpret the Plan, to make all factual determinations under the Plan, and to make all other determinations necessary or advisable for Plan administration, including, without limitation, to correct any defect, to supply any omission or to reconcile any inconsistency in the Plan or any Award Agreement hereunder. The Committee may prescribe, amend, and rescind rules and regulations relating to the Plan. The Committee’s determinations under the Plan need not be uniform and may be made by the Committee selectively among Participants and Eligible Persons, whether or not such persons are similarly situated. The Committee shall, in its discretion, consider such factors as it deems relevant in making its interpretations, determinations and actions under the Plan including, without limitation, the recommendations or advice of any officer or employee of the Company or such attorneys, consultants, accountants or other advisors as it may select. All interpretations, determinations, and actions by the Committee shall be final, conclusive, and binding upon all parties.

3.3 No Liability; Indemnification. Neither the Board nor any Committee member, nor any Person acting at the direction of the Board or the Committee, shall be liable for any act, omission, interpretation, construction or determination made in good faith with respect to the Plan, any Award or any Award Agreement. The Company and its Subsidiaries shall pay or reimburse any member of the Committee, as well as any other Person who takes action on behalf of the Plan, for all reasonable expenses incurred with respect to the Plan, and to the full extent allowable under Applicable Law shall indemnify each and every one of them for any claims, liabilities, and costs (including reasonable attorney's fees) arising out of their good faith performance of duties on behalf of the Company with respect to the Plan. The Company and its Subsidiaries may, but shall not be required to, obtain liability insurance for this purpose.

#### 4. Shares Subject to the Plans

4.1 Share Limitation. Subject to adjustment pursuant to Section 4.2 hereof, the maximum aggregate number of shares of Common Stock which may be issued under all Awards granted to Participants under the Plan shall be 1,000,000 shares, all of which may, but need not, be issued in respect of Incentive Stock Options. Shares of Common Stock issued under the Plan may be either authorized but unissued shares or shares held in the Company's treasury. Any shares of Common Stock subject to Awards that are settled in Common Stock shall be counted against the maximum share limitations of this Section 4.1 as one share of Common Stock for every share of Common Stock subject thereto, regardless of the number of shares of Common Stock actually issued to settle the Stock Option or Stock Appreciation Right upon exercise. To the extent that any Award under the Plan payable in shares of Common Stock is forfeited, cancelled, returned to the Company for failure to satisfy vesting requirements or upon the occurrence of other forfeiture events, or otherwise terminates without payment being made thereunder, the shares of Common Stock covered thereby will no longer be counted against the foregoing maximum share limitations and may again be made subject to Awards under the Plan pursuant to such limitations. Shares of Common Stock that otherwise would have been issued upon the exercise of a Stock Option or in payment with respect to any other form of Award, that are surrendered in payment or partial payment of taxes required to be withheld with respect to the exercise of such Stock Option or the making of such payment, will no longer be counted against the foregoing maximum share limitations and may again be made subject to Awards under the Plan pursuant to such limitations.

4.2 Adjustments. If there shall occur any change with respect to the outstanding shares of Common Stock by reason of any recapitalization, reclassification, stock dividend, extraordinary dividend, stock split, reverse stock split, or other distribution with respect to the shares of Common Stock, or any merger, reorganization, consolidation, combination, spin-off or other similar corporate change, or any other change affecting the Common Stock, the Committee shall, in the manner and to the extent that it deems appropriate and equitable to the Participants and consistent with the terms of the Plan, cause an adjustment to be made in (i) the maximum numbers and kind of shares provided in Section 4.1 hereof, (ii) the numbers and kind of shares of Common Stock, units, or other rights subject to then outstanding Awards, (iii) the price for each share or unit or other right subject to then outstanding Awards, (iv) the performance measures or goals relating to the vesting of an Award and (v) any other terms of an Award that are affected by the event to prevent dilution or enlargement of a Participant's rights under an Award. Notwithstanding the foregoing, in the case of Incentive Stock Options, any such adjustments shall, to the extent practicable, be made in a manner consistent with the requirements of Section 424(a) of the Code.

5. Participation and Awards

5.1 Designation of Participants. All Eligible Persons are eligible to be designated by the Committee to receive Awards and become Participants under the Plan. The Committee has the authority, in its discretion, to determine and designate from time to time those Eligible Persons who are to be granted Awards, the types of Awards to be granted and the number of shares of Common Stock or units subject to Awards granted under the Plan. In selecting Eligible Persons to be Participants and in determining the type and amount of Awards to be granted under the Plan, the Committee shall consider any and all factors that it deems relevant or appropriate.

5.2 Determination of Awards. The Committee shall determine the terms and conditions of all Awards granted to Participants in accordance with its authority under Section 3.2 hereof. An Award may consist of one type of right or benefit hereunder or of two or more such rights or benefits granted in tandem or in the alternative. To the extent deemed appropriate by the Committee, an Award shall be evidenced by an Award Agreement as described in Section 16.1 hereof.

6. Stock Options

6.1 Grant of Stock Option. A Stock Option may be granted to any Eligible Person selected by the Committee. Subject to the provisions of Section 6.6 hereof and Section 422 of the Code, each Stock Option shall be designated, in the discretion of the Committee, as an Incentive Stock Option or as a Nonqualified Stock Option.

6.2 Exercise Price. The exercise price per share of a Stock Option shall not be less than 100% of the Fair Market Value of a share of Common Stock on the Date of Grant, subject to adjustments as provided for under Section 4.2, provided that the Committee may in its discretion specify for any Stock Option an exercise price per share that is higher than the Fair Market Value on the Date of Grant.

6.3 Vesting of Stock Options. The Committee shall in its discretion prescribe the time or times at which, or the conditions upon which, a Stock Option or portion thereof shall become vested and/or exercisable. The requirements for vesting and exercisability of a Stock Option may be based on the continued Service of the Participant with the Company or a Subsidiary for a specified time period (or periods) and/or on the attainment of a specified performance goal (or goals) established by the Committee in its discretion. The Committee may, in its discretion, accelerate the vesting or exercisability of any Stock Option at any time. The Committee in its sole discretion may allow a Participant to exercise unvested Nonqualified Stock Options, in which case the shares of Common Stock then issued shall be Restricted Stock having analogous vesting restrictions to the unvested Nonqualified Stock Options.

6.4 Term of Stock Options. The Committee shall in its discretion prescribe in an Award Agreement the period during which a vested Stock Option may be exercised, provided that the maximum term of a Stock Option shall be ten (10) years from the Date of Grant. A Stock Option may be earlier terminated as specified by the Committee and set forth in an Award Agreement upon or following the termination of a Participant's Service with the Company or any Subsidiary, including by reason of voluntary resignation, death, Disability, termination for cause or any other reason. Except as otherwise provided in this Section 6 or in an Award Agreement as such agreement may be amended from time to time upon authorization of the Committee, no Stock Option may be exercised at any time during the term thereof unless the Participant is then in the Service of the Company or one of its Subsidiaries.

6.5 Stock Option Exercise. Subject to such terms and conditions as shall be specified in an Award Agreement, a Stock Option may be exercised in whole or in part at any time during the term thereof by notice in the form required by the Company, and payment of the aggregate exercise price by certified or bank check, or such other means as the Committee may accept. As set forth in an Award Agreement or otherwise determined by the Committee, in its sole discretion, at or after grant, payment in full or in part of the exercise price of an Option may be made: (i) in the form of shares of Common Stock that have been held by the Participant for such period as the Committee may deem appropriate for accounting purposes or otherwise, valued at the Fair Market Value of such shares on the date of exercise; (ii) by surrendering to the Company shares of Common Stock otherwise receivable on exercise of the Option; (iii) by a cashless exercise program implemented by the Committee in connection with the Plan; and/or (iv) by such other method as may be approved by the Committee and set forth in an Award Agreement. Subject to any governing rules or regulations, as soon as practicable after receipt of written notification of exercise and full payment of the exercise price and satisfaction of any applicable tax withholding pursuant to Section 17.5, the Company shall deliver to the Participant evidence of book entry shares of Common Stock, or upon the Participant's request, Common Stock certificates in an appropriate amount based upon the number of shares of Common Stock purchased under the Option. Unless otherwise determined by the Committee, all payments under all of the methods indicated above shall be paid in United States dollars or shares of Common Stock, as applicable.

6.6 Additional Rules for Incentive Stock Options.

(a) Eligibility. An Incentive Stock Option may only be granted to an Eligible Person who is considered an employee under Treasury Regulation §1.421-7(h) of the Company or any Subsidiary.

(b) Annual Limits. No Incentive Stock Option shall be granted to an Eligible Person as a result of which the aggregate Fair Market Value (determined as of the Date of Grant) of the stock with respect to which Incentive Stock Options are exercisable for the first time in any calendar year under the Plan and any other stock option plans of the Company or any Subsidiary would exceed \$100,000, determined in accordance with Section 422(d) of the Code. This limitation shall be applied by taking Incentive Stock Options into account in the order in which granted.



(c) **Ten Percent Stockholders.** If a Stock Option granted under the Plan is intended to be an Incentive Stock Option, and if the Participant, at the time of grant, owns stock possessing ten percent or more of the total combined voting power of all classes of Common Stock of the Company or any Subsidiary, then (A) the Stock Option exercise price per share shall in no event be less than 110% of the Fair Market Value of the Common Stock on the date of such grant and (B) such Stock Option shall not be exercisable after the expiration of five (5) years following the date such Stock Option is granted.

(d) **Termination of Employment.** An Award of an Incentive Stock Option shall provide that such Stock Option may be exercised not later than three (3) months following termination of employment of the Participant with the Company and all Subsidiaries, or not later than one (1) year following death or a permanent and total disability within the meaning of Section 22(e)(3) of the Code, as and to the extent determined by the Committee to comply with the requirements of Section 422 of the Code.

(e) **Disqualifying Dispositions.** If shares of Common Stock acquired by exercise of an Incentive Stock Option are disposed of within two (2) years following the Date of Grant or one (1) year following the transfer of such shares to the Participant upon exercise, the Participant shall, promptly following such disposition, notify the Company in writing of the date and terms of such disposition and provide such other information regarding the disposition as the Company may reasonably require.

## 7. Stock Appreciation Rights

7.1 **Grant of Stock Appreciation Rights.** A Stock Appreciation Right may be granted to any Eligible Person selected by the Committee. Stock Appreciation Rights may be granted on a basis that allows for the exercise of the right by the Participant or that provides for the automatic payment of the right upon a specified date or event.

7.2 **Base Price.** The base price of a Stock Appreciation Right shall be determined by the Committee in its sole discretion; provided, however, that the base price for any grant of a Stock Appreciation Right shall not be less than 100% of the Fair Market Value of a share of Common Stock on the Date of Grant, subject to adjustments as provided for under Section 4.2.

7.3 **Vesting Stock Appreciation Rights.** The Committee shall in its discretion prescribe the time or times at which, or the conditions upon which, a Stock Appreciation Right or portion thereof shall become vested and/or exercisable. The requirements for vesting and exercisability of a Stock Appreciation Right may be based on the continued Service of a Participant with the Company or a Subsidiary for a specified time period (or periods) or on the attainment of a specified performance goal (or goals) established by the Committee in its discretion. The Committee may, in its discretion, accelerate the vesting or exercisability of any Stock Appreciation Right at any time.

7.4 Term of Stock Appreciation Rights. The Committee shall in its discretion prescribe in an Award Agreement the period during which a vested Stock Appreciation Right may be exercised, provided that the maximum term of a Stock Appreciation Right shall be ten (10) years from the Date of Grant. A Stock Appreciation Right may be earlier terminated as specified by the Committee and set forth in an Award Agreement upon or following the termination of a Participant's Service with the Company or any Subsidiary, including by reason of voluntary resignation, death, Disability, termination for cause or any other reason. Except as otherwise provided in this Section 7 or in an Award Agreement as such agreement may be amended from time to time upon authorization of the Committee, no Stock Appreciation Right may be exercised at any time during the term thereof unless the Participant is then in the Service of the Company or one of its Subsidiaries.

7.5 Payment of Stock Appreciation Rights. Subject to such terms and conditions as shall be specified in an Award Agreement, a vested Stock Appreciation Right may be exercised in whole or in part at any time during the term thereof by notice in the form required by the Company and payment of any exercise price. Upon the exercise of a Stock Appreciation Right and payment of any applicable exercise price, a Participant shall be entitled to receive an amount determined by multiplying: (i) the excess of the Fair Market Value of a share of Common Stock on the date of exercise of the Stock Appreciation Right over the base price of such Stock Appreciation Right, by (ii) the number of shares as to which such Stock Appreciation Right is exercised. Payment of the amount determined under the immediately preceding sentence may be made, as approved by the Committee and set forth in the Award Agreement, in shares of Common Stock valued at their Fair Market Value on the date of exercise, in cash, or in a combination of shares of Common Stock and cash, subject to applicable tax withholding requirements set forth in Section 17.5. If Stock Appreciation Rights are settled in shares of Common Stock, then as soon as practicable following the date of settlement the Company shall deliver to the Participant evidence of book entry shares of Common Stock, or upon the Participant's request, Common Stock certificates in an appropriate amount.

## 8. Restricted Stock Awards

8.1 Grant of Restricted Stock Awards. A Restricted Stock Award may be granted to any Eligible Person selected by the Committee. The Committee may require the payment by the Participant of a specified purchase price in connection with any Restricted Stock Award. The Committee may provide in an Award Agreement for the payment of dividends and distributions to the Participant at such times as paid to stockholders generally or at the times of vesting or other payment of the Restricted Stock Award. If any dividends or distributions are paid in stock while a Restricted Stock Award is subject to restrictions under Section 8.3 of the Plan or Code Section 162(m), the dividends or other distributions shares shall be subject to the same restrictions on transferability as the shares of Common Stock to which they were paid unless otherwise set forth in the Award Agreement. The Committee may also subject the grant of any Restricted Stock Award to the execution of a voting agreement with the Company or with any Affiliate of the Company.

8.2 Vesting Requirements. The restrictions imposed on shares of Common Stock granted under a Restricted Stock Award shall lapse in accordance with the vesting requirements specified by the Committee in the Award Agreement. Upon vesting of a Restricted Stock Award, such Award shall be subject to the tax withholding requirement set forth in Section 17.5. The requirements for vesting of a Restricted Stock Award may be based on the continued Service of the Participant with the Company or its Subsidiaries for a specified time period (or periods) or on the attainment of a specified performance goal (or goals) established by the Committee in its discretion. The Committee may, in its discretion, accelerate the vesting of a Restricted Stock Award at any time. If the vesting requirements of a Restricted Stock Award shall not be satisfied, the Award shall be forfeited and the shares of Common Stock subject to the Award shall be returned to the Company. In the event that the Participant paid any purchase price with respect to such forfeited shares, unless otherwise provided by the Committee in an Award Agreement, the Company will refund to the Participant the lesser of (i) such purchase price and (ii) the Fair Market Value of such shares on the date of forfeiture.

8.3 Restrictions. Shares granted under any Restricted Stock Award may not be transferred, assigned or subject to any encumbrance, pledge, or charge until all applicable restrictions are removed or have expired, unless otherwise allowed by the Committee. The Committee may require in an Award Agreement that certificates representing the shares granted under a Restricted Stock Award bear a legend making appropriate reference to the restrictions imposed, and that certificates representing the shares granted or sold under a Restricted Stock Award will remain in the physical custody of an escrow holder until all restrictions are removed or have expired.

8.4 Rights as Stockholder. Subject to the foregoing provisions of this Section 8 and the applicable Award Agreement, the Participant to whom a Restricted Stock Award is made shall have all rights of a stockholder with respect to the shares granted to the Participant under the Restricted Stock Award, including the right to vote the shares and receive all dividends and other distributions paid or made with respect thereto, unless the Committee determines otherwise at the time the Restricted Stock Award is granted.

8.5 Section 83(b) Election. If a Participant makes an election pursuant to Section 83(b) of the Code with respect to a Restricted Stock Award, the Participant shall file, within 30 days following the Date of Grant, a copy of such election with the Company (directed to the Secretary thereof) and with the Internal Revenue Service, in accordance with the regulations under Section 83 of the Code. The Committee may provide in an Award Agreement that the Restricted Stock Award is conditioned upon the Participant's making or refraining from making an election with respect to the Award under Section 83(b) of the Code.

## 9. Stock Unit Awards

9.1 Grant of Stock Unit Awards. A Stock Unit Award may be granted to any Eligible Person selected by the Committee. The value of each stock unit under a Stock Unit Award is equal to the Fair Market Value of the Common Stock on the applicable date or time period of determination, as specified by the Committee. A Stock Unit Award shall be subject to such restrictions and conditions as the Committee shall determine. A Stock Unit Award may be granted together with a dividend equivalent right with respect to the shares of Common Stock subject to the Award, which may be accumulated and may be deemed reinvested in additional stock units, as determined by the Committee in its discretion. If any dividend equivalents are paid while a Stock Unit Award is subject to restrictions under Section 9 of the Plan or Code Section 162(m), the dividend equivalents shall be subject to the same restrictions on transferability as the Stock Units to which they were paid, unless otherwise set forth in the Award Agreement.

9.2 Vesting of Stock Unit Awards. On the Date of Grant, the Committee shall, in its discretion, determine any vesting requirements with respect to a Stock Unit Award, which shall be set forth in the Award Agreement. The requirements for vesting of a Stock Unit Award may be based on the continued Service of the Participant with the Company or its Subsidiaries for a specified time period (or periods) or on the attainment of a specified performance goal (or goals) established by the Committee in its discretion. The Committee may, in its discretion, accelerate the vesting of a Stock Unit Award at any time. A Stock Unit Award may also be granted on a fully vested basis, with a deferred payment date as may be determined by the Committee or elected by the Participant in accordance with rules established by the Committee.

9.3 Payment of Stock Unit Awards. A Stock Unit Award shall become payable to a Participant at the time or times determined by the Committee and set forth in the Award Agreement, which may be upon or following the vesting of the Award. Payment of a Stock Unit Award may be made, at the discretion of the Committee, in cash or in shares of Common Stock, or in a combination thereof as described in the Award Agreement, subject to applicable tax withholding requirements set forth in Section 17.5. Any cash payment of a Stock Unit Award shall be made based upon the Fair Market Value of the Common Stock, determined on such date or over such time period as determined by the Committee. Notwithstanding the foregoing, unless specified otherwise in the Award Agreement, any Stock Unit, whether settled in Common Stock or cash, shall be paid no later than two and one-half months after the later of the calendar year or fiscal year in which the Stock Units vest. If Stock Unit Awards are settled in shares of Common Stock, then as soon as practicable following the date of settlement, the Company shall deliver to the Participant evidence of book entry shares of Common Stock, or upon the Participant's request, Common Stock certificates in an appropriate amount.

## 10. Performance Shares

10.1 Grant of Performance Shares. Performance Shares may be granted to any Eligible Person selected by the Committee. A Performance Share Award shall be subject to such restrictions and condition as the Committee shall specify. A Performance Share Award may be granted with a dividend equivalent right with respect to the shares of Common Stock subject to the Award, which may be accumulated and may be deemed reinvested in additional stock units, as determined by the Committee in its discretion.

10.2 Value of Performance Shares. Each Performance Share shall have an initial value equal to the Fair Market Value of a Share on the Grant Date. The Committee shall set performance goals in its discretion that, depending on the extent to which they are met over a specified time period, shall determine the number of Performance Shares that shall be paid to a Participant.

10.3 Earning of Performance Shares. After the applicable time period has ended, the number of Performance Shares earned by the Participant over such time period shall be determined as a function of the extent to which the applicable corresponding performance goals have been achieved. This determination shall be made solely by the Committee. The Committee may, in its discretion, waive any performance or vesting conditions relating to a Performance Share Award.

10.4 Form and Timing of Payment of Performance Shares. The Committee shall pay at the close of the applicable Performance Period, or as soon as practicable thereafter, any earned Performance Shares in the form of cash or in shares of Common Stock or in a combination thereof, as specified in a Participant's Award Agreement, subject to applicable tax withholding requirements set forth in Section 17.5. Notwithstanding the foregoing, all Performance Shares shall be paid no later than two and one-half months following the later of the calendar year or fiscal year in which such Performance Shares vest. Any shares of Common Stock paid to a Participant under this Section 10.4 may be subject to any restrictions deemed appropriate by the Committee. If Performance Shares are settled in shares of Common Stock, then as soon as practicable following the date of settlement the Company shall deliver to the Participant evidence of book entry shares of Common Stock, or upon the Participant's request, Common Stock certificates in an appropriate amount.

## 11. Performance Units

11.1 Grant of Performance Units. Performance Units may be granted to any Eligible Person selected by the Committee. A Performance Unit Award shall be subject to such restrictions and condition as the Committee shall specify in a Participant's Award Agreement.

11.2 Value of Performance Units. Each Performance Unit shall have an initial notional value equal to a dollar amount determined by the Committee, in its sole discretion. The Committee shall set performance goals in its discretion that, depending on the extent to which they are met over a specified time period, will determine the number of Performance Units that shall be settled and paid to the Participant.

11.3 Earning of Performance Units. After the applicable time period has ended, the number of Performance Units earned by the Participant, and the amount payable in cash, in shares or in a combination thereof, over such time period shall be determined as a function of the extent to which the applicable corresponding performance goals have been achieved. This determination shall be made solely by the Committee. The Committee may, in its discretion, waive any performance or vesting conditions relating to a Performance Unit Award.

11.4 Form and Timing of Payment of Performance Units. The Committee shall pay at the close of the applicable Performance Period, or as soon as practicable thereafter, any earned Performance Units in the form of cash or in shares of Common Stock or in a combination thereof, as specified in a Participant's Award Agreement, subject to applicable tax withholding requirements set forth in Section 17.5. Notwithstanding the foregoing, all Performance Units shall be paid no later than two and one-half months following the later of the calendar year or fiscal year in which such Performance Units vest. Any shares of Common Stock paid to a Participant under this Section 11.4 may be subject to any restrictions deemed appropriate by the Committee. If Performance Units are settled in shares of Common Stock, then as soon as practicable following the date of settlement the Company shall deliver to the Participant evidence of book entry shares of Common Stock, or upon the Participant's request, Common Stock certificates in an appropriate amount.

## 12. Incentive Bonus Awards

12.1 Incentive Bonus Awards. The Committee, at its discretion, may grant Incentive Bonus Awards to such Participants as it may designate from time to time. The terms of a Participant's Incentive Bonus Award shall be set forth in the Participant's Award Agreement. Each Award Agreement shall specify such general terms and conditions as the Committee shall determine.

12.2 Incentive Bonus Award Performance Criteria. The determination of Incentive Bonus Awards for a given year or years may be based upon the attainment of specified levels of Company or Subsidiary performance as measured by pre-established, objective performance criteria determined at the discretion of the Committee, including any or all of the Performance Measures set forth in Exhibit A hereto. The Committee shall (i) select those Participants who shall be eligible to receive an Incentive Bonus Award, (ii) determine the performance period, (iii) determine target levels of performance, and (iv) determine the level of Incentive Bonus Award to be paid to each selected Participant upon the achievement of each performance level. The Committee generally shall make the foregoing determinations prior to the commencement of services to which an Incentive Bonus Award relates (or for Incentive Bonus Awards intended to satisfy Code Section 162(m), within the permissible time period established for exemption under Code Section 162(m) and the regulations promulgated thereunder), to the extent applicable, and while the outcome of the performance goals and targets is uncertain.

## 12.3 Payment of Incentive Bonus Awards.

(a) Incentive Bonus Awards shall be paid in cash or Common Stock, as set forth in a Participant's Award Agreement. Payments shall be made following a determination by the Committee that the performance targets were attained and shall be made within two and one-half months after the later of the end of the fiscal or calendar year in which the Incentive Award is no longer subject to a substantial risk of forfeiture.

(b) The amount of an Incentive Bonus Award to be paid upon the attainment of each targeted level of performance shall equal a percentage of a Participant's base salary for the fiscal year, a fixed dollar amount, or such other formula, as determined by the Committee.

## 13. Other Cash-Based Awards and Other Stock-Based Awards

13.1 Other Cash-Based and Stock-Based Awards. The Committee may grant other types of equity-based or equity-related Awards not otherwise described by the terms of this Plan (including the grant or offer for sale of unrestricted Shares) in such amounts and subject to such terms and conditions, as the Committee shall determine. Such Awards may involve the transfer of actual shares of Common Stock to a Participant, or payment in cash or otherwise of amounts based on the value of shares of Common Stock. In addition, the Committee, at any time and from time to time, may grant Cash-Based Awards to a Participant in such amounts and upon such terms as the Committee shall determine, in its sole discretion.

13.2 Value of Cash-Based Awards and Other Stock-Based Awards. Each Other Stock-Based Award shall be expressed in terms of shares of Common Stock or units based on shares of Common Stock, as determined by the Committee, in its sole discretion. Each Other Cash-Based Award shall specify a payment amount or payment range as determined by the Committee, in its sole discretion. If the Committee exercises its discretion to establish performance goals, the value of Other Cash-Based Awards that shall be paid to the Participant will depend on the extent to which such performance goals are met.

13.3 Payment of Cash-Based Awards and Other Stock-Based Awards. Payment, if any, with respect to Other Cash-Based Awards and Other Stock-Based Award shall be made in accordance with the terms of the Award, in cash

or Shares as the Committee determines.

14. Code Section 162(m) Awards

14.1 Awards Granted Under Code Section 162(m). The Committee, at its discretion, may designate that a Restricted Stock, Stock Unit, Performance Share, Performance Unit, Incentive Bonus, Other Stock Award or Other Cash Award shall be granted as a Code Section 162(m) Award. Such an Award must comply with the following additional requirements, which shall control over any other provision that pertains to such Award.

14.2 Performance Measures.

(a) Each Code Section 162(m) Award shall be based upon the attainment of specified levels of pre-established, objective Performance Measures that are intended to satisfy the performance based compensation exemption requirements of Code Section 162(m) and the regulations promulgated thereunder. Further, at the discretion of the Committee, an Award also may be subject to goals and restrictions in addition to the Performance Measures.

(b) "Performance Measures" means the measures of performance of the Company and its Subsidiaries used to determine a Participant's entitlement to an Award under the Plan. Such performance measures shall have the same meanings as used in the Company's financial statements, or, if such terms are not used in the Company's financial statements, they shall have the meaning applied pursuant to generally accepted accounting principles, or as used generally in the Company's industry. Performance Measures shall be calculated with respect to the Company and each Subsidiary consolidated therewith for financial reporting purposes or such division or other business unit as may be selected by the Committee. For purposes of the Plan, the Performance Measures shall be calculated in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles to the extent applicable, but, unless otherwise determined by the Committee, prior to the accrual or payment of any Award under this Plan for the same performance period and excluding the effect (whether positive or negative) of any change in accounting standards or any extraordinary, unusual or nonrecurring item, as determined by the Committee, occurring after the establishment of the performance goals. Performance Measures shall be based on one or more of the criteria set forth in Exhibit A which is hereby incorporated by reference, as determined by the Committee.

(c) For each Code Section 162(m) Award, the Committee shall (i) select the Participant who shall be eligible to receive a Code Section 162(m) Award, (ii) determine the applicable performance period, (iii) determine the target levels of the Company or Subsidiary Performance Measures, and (iv) determine the number of shares of Common Stock or cash or other property (or combination thereof) subject to an Award to be paid to each selected Participant. The Committee shall make the foregoing determinations prior to the commencement of services to which an Award relates (or within the permissible time period established under Code Section 162(m)) and while the outcome of the performance goals and targets is uncertain.

14.3 Attainment of Code Section 162(m) Goals.

(a) After each performance period, the Committee shall certify in writing (which may include the written minutes for any meeting of the Committee): (i) if the Company has attained the performance targets, and (ii) the number of shares pursuant to the Award that are to become freely transferable, if applicable, or the cash or other property payable under the Award. The Committee shall have no discretion to waive all or part of the conditions, goals and restrictions applicable to the receipt of full or partial payment of an Award except in the case of a Change in Control of the Corporation or the death or Disability of a Participant.

(b) Notwithstanding the foregoing, the Committee may, in its discretion, reduce any Award based on such factors as may be determined by the Committee, including, without limitation, a determination by the Committee that such a reduction is appropriate in light of pay practices of competitors, or the performance of the Company, a Subsidiary or a Participant relative to the performance of competitors, or performance with respect to the Company's strategic business



goals.

44

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14.4 Individual Participant Limitations. Subject to adjustment as provided in Section 4.2, with respect to Awards intended to be Code Section 162(m) Awards and Stock Option and Stock Appreciation Rights Awards intended to be exempt from the deductibility limitation in Code Section 162(m), no Participant in any one fiscal year of the Company may be granted (a) Stock Options or Stock Appreciation Rights with respect to more than 250,000 shares of Common Stock each; (b) Restricted Stock or Stock Units with respect to more than 250,000 shares each; and (c) Performance Shares Awards, Incentive Bonus Awards and Other Stock Based Awards that are denominated in shares of Common Stock with respect to more than 250,000 shares each. The maximum dollar value payable to any Participant in any one (1) fiscal year of the Company with respect to Stock Units, Performance Units or Incentive Bonus Awards or Other Stock-Based Awards that may be settled in cash or other property (other than Common Stock) is \$500,000. If an Award is cancelled, the cancelled Award shall continue to be counted towards the applicable limitations.

15. Change in Control

15.1 Effect of Change in Control.

(a) The Committee may, at the time of the grant of an Award and as set forth in an Award Agreement, provide for the effect of a “Change in Control” on an Award. Such provisions may include any one or more of the following: (i) the acceleration or extension of time periods for purposes of exercising, vesting in, or realizing gain from any Award, (ii) the elimination or modification of performance or other conditions related to the payment or other rights under an Award, (iii) provision for the cash settlement of an Award for an equivalent cash value, as determined by the Committee, or (iv) such other modification or adjustment to an Award as the Committee deems appropriate to maintain and protect the rights and interests of Participants upon or following a Change in Control. To the extent necessary for compliance with Section 409A of the Code, an Award Agreement shall provide that an Award subject to the requirements of Section 409A that would otherwise become payable upon a Change in Control shall only become payable to the extent that the requirements for a “change in control” for purposes of Section 409A have been satisfied.

(b) Notwithstanding anything to the contrary set forth in the Plan, unless otherwise provided by an Award Agreement, upon or in anticipation of any Change in Control, the Committee may, in its sole and absolute discretion and without the need for the consent of any Participant, take one or more of the following actions contingent upon the occurrence of that Change in Control: (i) cause any or all outstanding Stock Options and Stock Appreciation Rights held by Participants affected by the Change in Control to become vested and immediately exercisable, in whole or in part; (ii) cause any or all outstanding Restricted Stock, Stock Units, Performance Shares, Performance Units, Incentive Bonus Award and any other Award held by Participants affected by the Change in Control to become non-forfeitable, in whole or in part; (iii) cancel any Stock Option or Stock Appreciation Right in exchange for a substitute option in a manner consistent with the requirements of Treasury Regulation. §1.424-1(a) (notwithstanding the fact that the original Stock Option may never have been intended to satisfy the requirements for treatment as an Incentive Stock Option); (iv) cancel any Restricted Stock, Stock Units, Performance Shares or Performance Units held by a Participant in exchange for restricted stock or performance shares of or stock or performance units in respect of the capital stock of any successor corporation; (v) redeem any Restricted Stock held by a Participant affected by the Change in Control for cash and/or other substitute consideration with a value equal to the Fair Market Value of an unrestricted share of Common Stock on the date of the Change in Control; (vi) cancel any Stock Option or Stock Appreciation Right held by a Participant affected by the Change in Control in exchange for cash and/or other substitute consideration with a value equal to (A) the number of shares of Common Stock subject to that Stock Option or Stock Appreciation Right, multiplied by (B) the difference, if any, between the Fair Market Value per share of Common Stock on the date of the Change in Control and the exercise price of that Stock Option or Stock Appreciation Right; provided, that if the Fair Market Value per share of Common Stock on the date of the Change in Control does not exceed the exercise price of any such Stock Option or Stock Appreciation Right, the Committee may cancel that Stock Option or Stock Appreciation Right without any payment of consideration therefor; (vii) cancel any Stock Unit or Performance Unit

held by a Participant affected by the Change in Control in exchange for cash and/or other substitute consideration with a value equal to the Fair Market Value per share of Common Stock on the date of the Change in Control (provided that such cancelation and exchange does not violate Section 409A of the Code); or (ix) make such other modifications, adjustments or amendments to outstanding Awards or this Plan as the Committee deems necessary or appropriate.

16. General Provisions

16.1 Award Agreement. To the extent deemed necessary by the Committee, an Award under the Plan shall be evidenced by an Award Agreement in a written or electronic form approved by the Committee setting forth the number of shares of Common Stock or units subject to the Award, the exercise price, base price, or purchase price of the Award, the time or times at which an Award will become vested, exercisable or payable and the term of the Award. The Award Agreement may also set forth the effect on an Award of termination of Service under certain circumstances. The Award Agreement shall be subject to and incorporate, by reference or otherwise, all of the applicable terms and conditions of the Plan, and may also set forth other terms and conditions applicable to the Award as determined by the Committee consistent with the limitations of the Plan. Award Agreements evidencing Incentive Stock Options shall contain such terms and conditions as may be necessary to meet the applicable provisions of Section 422 of the Code. The grant of an Award under the Plan shall not confer any rights upon the Participant holding such Award other than such terms, and subject to such conditions, as are specified in the Plan as being applicable to such type of Award (or to all Awards) or as are expressly set forth in the Award Agreement.

16.2 Forfeiture Events/Representations. The Committee may specify in an Award Agreement at the time of the Award that the Participant's rights, payments and benefits with respect to an Award shall be subject to reduction, cancellation, forfeiture or recoupment upon the occurrence of certain specified events, in addition to any otherwise applicable vesting or performance conditions of an Award. Such events shall include, but shall not be limited to, termination of Service for cause, violation of material Company policies, breach of noncompetition, confidentiality or other restrictive covenants that may apply to the Participant, or other conduct by the Participant that is detrimental to the business or reputation of the Company. The Committee may also specify in an Award Agreement that the Participant's rights, payments and benefits with respect to an Award shall be conditioned upon the Participant making a representation regarding compliance with noncompetition, confidentiality or other restrictive covenants that may apply to the Participant and providing that the Participant's rights, payments and benefits with respect to an Award shall be subject to reduction, cancellation, forfeiture or recoupment on account of a breach of such representation. In addition and without limitation of the foregoing, any amounts paid hereunder shall be subject to recoupment in accordance with The Dodd–Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act and any implementing regulations thereunder, any “clawback” policy adopted by the Company or as is otherwise required by applicable law or stock exchange listing condition.

16.3 No Assignment or Transfer; Beneficiaries.

(a) Awards under the Plan shall not be assignable or transferable by the Participant, except by will or by the laws of descent and distribution, and shall not be subject in any manner to assignment, alienation, pledge, encumbrance or charge. Notwithstanding the foregoing, the Committee may provide in an Award Agreement that the Participant shall have the right to designate a beneficiary or beneficiaries who shall be entitled to any rights, payments or other benefits specified under an Award following the Participant's death. During the lifetime of a Participant, an Award shall be exercised only by such Participant or such Participant's guardian or legal representative. In the event of a Participant's death, an Award may, to the extent permitted by the Award Agreement, be exercised by the Participant's beneficiary as designated by the Participant in the manner prescribed by the Committee or, in the absence of an authorized beneficiary designation, by the legatee of such Award under the Participant's will or by the Participant's estate in accordance with the Participant's will or the laws of descent and distribution, in each case in the same manner and to the same extent that such Award was exercisable by the Participant on the date of the Participant's death.

(b) Limited Transferability Rights. Notwithstanding anything else in this Section 16.3 to the contrary, the Committee may in its discretion provide in an Award Agreement that an Award in the form of a Nonqualified Stock Option, share-settled Stock Appreciation Right, Restricted Stock, Performance Share or share-settled Other Stock-Based Award may be transferred, on such terms and conditions as the Committee deems appropriate, either (i) by instrument

to the Participant's "Immediate Family" (as defined below), (ii) by instrument to an inter vivos or testamentary trust (or other entity) in which the Award is to be passed to the Participant's designated beneficiaries, or (iii) by gift to charitable institutions. Any transferee of the Participant's rights shall succeed and be subject to all of the terms of the applicable Award Agreement and the Plan. "Immediate Family" means any child, stepchild, grandchild, parent, stepparent, grandparent, spouse, former spouse, sibling, niece, nephew, mother-in-law, father-in-law, son-in-law, daughter-in-law, brother-in-law, or sister-in-law, and shall include adoptive relationships.

16.4 Rights as Stockholder. A Participant shall have no rights as a holder of shares of Common Stock with respect to any unissued securities covered by an Award until the date the Participant becomes the holder of record of such securities. Except as provided in Section 4.2 hereof, no adjustment or other provision shall be made for dividends or other stockholder rights, except to the extent that the Award Agreement provides for dividend payments or dividend equivalent rights.

16.5 Employment or Service. Nothing in the Plan, in the grant of any Award or in any Award Agreement shall confer upon any Eligible Person or Participant any right to continue in the Service of the Company or any of its Subsidiaries, or interfere in any way with the right of the Company or any of its Subsidiaries to terminate the employment or other service relationship of an Eligible Person or Participant for any reason at any time.

16.6 Fractional Shares. In the case of any fractional share or unit resulting from the grant, vesting, payment or crediting of dividends or dividend equivalents under an Award, the Committee shall have the discretionary authority to (i) disregard such fractional share or unit, (ii) round such fractional share or unit to the nearest lower or higher whole share or unit, or (iii) convert such fractional share or unit into a right to receive a cash payment.

16.7 Other Compensation and Benefit Plans. The amount of any compensation deemed to be received by a Participant pursuant to an Award shall not constitute includable compensation for purposes of determining the amount of benefits to which a Participant is entitled under any other compensation or benefit plan or program of the Company or any Subsidiary, including, without limitation, under any bonus, pension, profit-sharing, life insurance, salary continuation or severance benefits plan, except to the extent specifically provided by the terms of any such plan.

16.8 Plan Binding on Transferees. The Plan shall be binding upon the Company, its transferees and assigns, and the Participant, the Participant's executor, administrator and permitted transferees and beneficiaries. In addition, all obligations of the Company under this Plan with respect to Awards granted hereunder shall be binding on any successor to the Company, whether the existence of such successor is the result of a direct or indirect purchase, merger, consolidation, or otherwise, of all or substantially all of the business and/or assets of the Company.

16.9 Foreign Jurisdictions. The Committee may adopt, amend and terminate such arrangements and grant such Awards, not inconsistent with the intent of the Plan, as it may deem necessary or desirable to comply with any tax, securities, regulatory or other laws of other jurisdictions with respect to Awards that may be subject to such laws. The terms and conditions of such Awards may vary from the terms and conditions that would otherwise be required by the Plan solely to the extent the Committee deems necessary for such purpose. Moreover, the Board may approve such supplements to or amendments, restatements or alternative versions of the Plan, not inconsistent with the intent of the Plan, as it may consider necessary or appropriate for such purposes, without thereby affecting the terms of the Plan as in effect for any other purpose.

16.10 Substitute Awards in Corporate Transactions. Nothing contained in the Plan shall be construed to limit the right of the Committee to grant Awards under the Plan in connection with the acquisition, whether by purchase, merger, consolidation or other corporate transaction, of the business or assets of any corporation or other entity. Without limiting the foregoing, the Committee may grant Awards under the Plan to an employee or director of another corporation who becomes an Eligible Person by reason of any such corporate transaction in substitution for awards previously granted by such corporation or entity to such person. The terms and conditions of the substitute Awards may vary from the terms and conditions that would otherwise be required by the Plan solely to the extent the Committee deems necessary for such purpose. Any shares of Common Stock subject to these substitute Awards shall not be counted against any of the maximum share limitations set forth in the Plan.

16.11 Stockholder Agreements; Restrictions. Upon the grant of any Award or the distribution of Common Stock pursuant to any Award (as applicable), the Participant (or legal representative) may be required to become a party to a

Stockholders Agreement and/or related agreement(s), which shall include such terms and conditions (including without limitation, call rights, drag-along rights and refusal rights), as may be determined by the Committee in its sole discretion.

17. Legal Compliance

17.1 Securities Laws. No shares of Common Stock will be issued or transferred pursuant to an Award unless and until all then applicable requirements imposed by Federal and state securities and other laws, rules and regulations and by any regulatory agencies having jurisdiction, and by any exchanges upon which the shares of Common Stock may be listed, have been fully met. As a condition precedent to the issuance of shares pursuant to the grant or exercise of an Award, the Company may require the Participant to take any reasonable action to meet such requirements. The Committee may impose such conditions on any shares of Common Stock issuable under the Plan as it may deem advisable, including, without limitation, restrictions under the Securities Act, as amended, under the requirements of any exchange upon which such shares of the same class are then listed, and under any blue sky or other securities laws applicable to such shares. The Committee may also require the Participant to represent and warrant at the time of issuance or transfer that the shares of Common Stock are being acquired only for investment purposes and without any current intention to sell or distribute such shares. All Common Stock issued pursuant to the terms of this Plan shall constitute “restricted securities,” as that term is defined in Rule 144 promulgated pursuant to the Securities Act, and may not be transferred except in compliance herewith and with the registration requirements of the Securities Act or an exemption therefrom. Certificates representing Common Stock acquired pursuant to an Award may bear such legend as the Company may consider appropriate under the circumstances. If an Award is made to an Eligible Person who is subject to Chinese jurisdiction, and approval of the Award by China’s State Administration of Foreign Exchange is needed, the Award may be converted to cash or other equivalent amount if and to the extent that such approval is not obtained.

17.2 Incentive Arrangement. The Plan is designed to provide an on-going, pecuniary incentive for Participants to produce their best efforts to increase the value of the Company. The Plan is not intended to provide retirement income or to defer the receipt of payments hereunder to the termination of a Participant’s employment or beyond. The Plan is thus intended not to be a pension or welfare benefit plan that is subject to Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (“ERISA”), and shall be construed accordingly. All interpretations and determinations hereunder shall be made on a basis consistent with the Plan’s status as not an employee benefit plan subject to ERISA.

17.3 Unfunded Plan. The adoption of the Plan and any reservation of shares of Common Stock or cash amounts by the Company to discharge its obligations hereunder shall not be deemed to create a trust or other funded arrangement. Except upon the issuance of Common Stock pursuant to an Award, any rights of a Participant under the Plan shall be those of a general unsecured creditor of the Company, and neither a Participant nor the Participant’s permitted transferees or estate shall have any other interest in any assets of the Company by virtue of the Plan. Notwithstanding the foregoing, the Company shall have the right to implement or set aside funds in a grantor trust, subject to the claims of the Company’s creditors or otherwise, to discharge its obligations under the Plan.

17.4 Section 409A Compliance. To the extent applicable, it is intended that the Plan and all Awards hereunder comply with the requirements of Section 409A of the Code, and the Plan and all Award Agreements shall be interpreted and applied by the Committee in a manner consistent with this intent in order to avoid the imposition of any additional tax under Section 409A of the Code. In the event that any provision of the Plan or an Award Agreement is determined by the Committee to not comply with the applicable requirements of Section 409A of the Code, the Committee shall have the authority to take such actions and to make such interpretations or changes to the Plan or an Award Agreement as the Committee deems necessary to comply with such requirements, provided that the Committee shall act in a manner that is intended to preserve the economic value of the Award to the Participant. In no event whatsoever shall the Company be liable for any additional tax, interest or penalties that may be imposed on any Participant by Section 409A of the Code or any damages for failing to comply with Section 409A of the Code. Notwithstanding anything in the Plan to the contrary, all or part of an Award payment to a Participant who is determined to constitute a Code Section 409A “Specified Employee” at the time of separation from service, shall be delayed (if then required) under Code Section 409A, and paid in an aggregated lump on the first business day after six



(6) months have lapsed following the Participant's separation from service, or the date of the Participant's death, if earlier. Any remaining payments shall be paid on their regularly scheduled payment dates. For purposes of the Plan and any Agreements issued under the Plan, the phrases "separation from service," "termination of employment" and "employment termination" shall be deemed to mean "separation from service" as defined by Code Section 409A and regulations thereunder.

17.5 Tax Withholding.

(a) The Company shall have the power and the right to deduct or withhold, or require a participant to remit to the Company, the minimum statutory amount to satisfy federal, state, and local taxes, domestic or foreign, required by law or regulation to be withheld with respect to any taxable event arising as a result of this Plan, but in no event shall such deduction or withholding or remittance exceed the minimum statutory withholding requirements. Notwithstanding the foregoing, if a minimum statutory amount of withholding does not apply under the laws of any foreign jurisdiction, the Company may withhold such amount for remittance to the applicable taxing authority of such jurisdiction as the Company determines in its discretion, uniformly applied, to be appropriate.

(b) A Participant may, in order to fulfill the withholding obligation, tender previously-acquired shares of Common Stock or have shares of stock withheld from the exercise, provided that the shares have an aggregate Fair Market Value sufficient to satisfy in whole or in part the applicable withholding taxes. The broker-assisted exercise procedure described in Section 6.5 may also be utilized to satisfy the withholding requirements related to the exercise of a Stock Option.

(c) Notwithstanding the foregoing, a Participant may not use shares of Common Stock to satisfy the withholding requirements to the extent that (i) there is a substantial likelihood that the use of such form of payment or the timing of such form of payment would subject the Participant to a substantial risk of liability under Section 16 of the Exchange Act; or (ii) such withholding would constitute a violation of the provisions of any law or regulation (including the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002).

17.6 No Guarantee of Tax Consequences. Neither the Company, the Board, the Committee nor any other Person make any commitment or guarantee that any federal, state, local or foreign tax treatment will apply or be available to any Participant or any other person hereunder.

17.7 Severability. If any provision of the Plan or any Award Agreement shall be determined to be illegal or unenforceable by any court of law in any jurisdiction, the remaining provisions hereof and thereof shall be severable and enforceable in accordance with their terms, and all provisions shall remain enforceable in any other jurisdiction.

17.8 Stock Certificates; Book Entry Form. Notwithstanding any provision of the Plan to the contrary, unless otherwise determined by the Committee or required by any applicable law, rule or regulation, any obligation set forth in the Plan pertaining to the delivery or issuance of stock certificates evidencing shares of Common Stock may be satisfied by having issuance and/or ownership of such shares recorded on the books and records of the Company (or, as applicable, its transfer agent or stock plan administrator).

17.9 Governing Law. The Plan and all rights hereunder shall be subject to and interpreted in accordance with the laws of the State of Nevada, without reference to the principles of conflicts of laws, and to applicable Federal securities laws.

18. Effective Date, Amendment and Termination

18.1 Effective Date. The effective date of the Plan shall be the date on which the Plan is approved by the requisite percentage of the holders of the Common Stock of the Company; provided, however, that Awards granted under the Plan subsequent to the approval of the Plan by the Board shall be valid if such stockholder approval occurs within one year of the date on which such Board approval occurs.

18.2 Amendment; Termination. The Board may suspend or terminate the Plan (or any portion thereof) at any time and may amend the Plan at any time and from time to time in such respects as the Board may deem advisable or in the best interests of the Company or any Subsidiary. No such amendment, suspension or termination shall materially and adversely affect the rights of any Participant under any outstanding Awards, without the consent of such Participant. The Plan will continue in effect until terminated in accordance with this Section 18.2; provided, however, that no Award will be granted hereunder on or after the 10th anniversary of the date of the Plan's initial adoption by the Board; but provided further, that Awards granted prior to such 10th anniversary may extend beyond that date.

INITIAL BOARD APPROVAL: 2/27/2013

INITIAL STOCKHOLDER APPROVAL: \_\_/\_\_/2013

EXHIBIT A

PERFORMANCE MEASURES

Code Section 162(m) Awards shall be based on the attainment of objective performance goals that are established by the Committee and relate to one or more Performance Measures, in each case on specified date or over any period, up to 10 years, as determined by the Committee.

“Performance Measures” means the following business criteria (or any combination thereof) with respect to one or more of the Company, any Subsidiary or any division or operating unit thereof:

pre-tax income,

after-tax income,

net income (meaning net income as reflected in the Company’s financial reports for the applicable period, on an aggregate, diluted and/or per share basis, or economic net income),

operating income or profit,

cash flow, free cash flow, cash flow return on investment (discounted or otherwise), net cash provided by operations, or cash flow in excess of cost of capital,

earnings per share (basic or diluted),

return on equity,

returns on sales or revenues,

return on invested capital or assets (gross or net),

cash, funds or earnings available for distribution,

appreciation in the fair market value of the Common Stock,

operating expenses,

implementation or completion of critical projects or processes,

return on investment,

total return to stockholders (meaning the aggregate Common Stock price appreciation and

dividends paid (assuming full reinvestment of dividends) during the applicable period),

net earnings growth,

stock appreciation (meaning an increase in the price or value of the Common Stock after the date of grant of an award and during the applicable period),

related return ratios,

increase in revenues,

the Company's published ranking against its peer group of real estate investment trusts based on total stockholder return,

net earnings,

changes (or the absence of changes) in the per share or aggregate market price of the Company's Common Stock,

number of securities sold,

earnings before or after any one or more of the following items: interest, taxes, depreciation or amortization, as reflected in the Company's financial reports for the applicable period,

total revenue growth (meaning the increase in total revenues after the date of grant of an award and during the applicable period, as reflected in the Company's financial reports for the applicable period),

economic value created,

operating margin or profit margin,

Share price or total shareholder return,

cost targets, reductions and savings, productivity and efficiencies,

strategic business criteria, consisting of one or more objectives based on meeting objectively determinable specified market penetration, geographic business expansion, investor satisfaction, employee satisfaction, human resources management, supervision of litigation, information technology, and goals relating to acquisitions, divestitures, joint ventures and similar transactions, and budget comparisons,

objectively determinable personal professional objectives, including any of the foregoing performance goals, the implementation of policies and plans, the negotiation of transactions, the development of long term business goals, formation of joint ventures, research or development collaborations, and the completion of other corporate transactions, and

any combination of, or a specified increase or improvement in, any of the foregoing.

Where applicable, the Performance Measures may be expressed in terms of attaining a specified level of the particular criteria or the attainment of a percentage increase or decrease in the particular criteria, and may be applied to one or more of the Company, a Subsidiary or affiliate, or a division or strategic business unit of the Company, or may be applied to the performance of the Company relative to a market index, a group of other companies or a combination thereof, all as determined by the Committee.

The Performance Measures may include a threshold level of performance below which no payment shall be made (or no vesting shall occur), levels of performance at which specified payments shall be made (or specified vesting shall occur), and a maximum level of performance above which no additional payment shall be made (or at which full vesting shall occur).

Except as otherwise expressly provided, all financial terms are used as defined under Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (“GAAP”) and all determinations shall be made in accordance with GAAP, as applied by the Company in the preparation of its periodic reports to stockholders.

To the extent permitted by Section 162(m) of the Code, unless the Committee provides otherwise at the time of establishing the performance goals, for each fiscal year of the Company, the Committee shall have the authority to make equitable adjustments to the Performance Measures in recognition of unusual or non-recurring events affecting the Company or any Subsidiary or affiliate or the financial statements of the Company or any Subsidiary or affiliate and may provide for objectively determinable adjustments, as determined in accordance with GAAP, to any of the Performance Measures described above for one or more of the items of gain, loss, profit or expense: (A) determined to be extraordinary or unusual in nature or infrequent in occurrence, (B) related to the disposal of a segment of a business, (C) related to a change in accounting principle under GAAP or a change in applicable laws or regulations, (D) related to discontinued operations that do not qualify as a segment of a business under GAAP, and (E) attributable to the business operations of any entity acquired by the Company during the fiscal year.

COFFEE HOLDING CO., INC.

THIS PROXY IS SOLICITED ON BEHALF  
OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

ANNUAL MEETING OF STOCKHOLDERS –  
APRIL 11, 2013 AT 3:00 PM

CONTROL ID:  
REQUEST ID:

The undersigned stockholder of Coffee Holding Co., Inc. hereby appoints Andrew Gordon and David Gordon, or either of them, with full powers of substitution, to represent and to vote as proxy, as designated, all shares of common stock of Coffee Holding Co., Inc. held of record by the undersigned on February 25, 2013, at the Annual Meeting of Stockholders (the “Annual Meeting”) to be held on Thursday, April 11, 2013 at 3:00 p.m., Eastern time, at the Hilton Garden Inn located at 1100 South Avenue, Staten Island, New York 10314, or at any adjournment or postponement thereof. The undersigned hereby revokes all prior proxies.

This proxy is solicited on behalf of the Board of Directors of Coffee Holding Co., Inc. for the Annual Meeting of Stockholders to be held on April 11, 2013.

(CONTINUED AND TO BE SIGNED ON  
REVERSE SIDE.)

#### VOTING INSTRUCTIONS

If you vote by phone, fax or internet, please DO NOT mail your proxy card.

MAIL: Please mark, sign, date, and return this Proxy Card promptly using the enclosed envelope.

FAX: Complete the reverse portion of this Proxy Card and Fax to 202-521-3464.

INTERNET: <https://www.iproxydirect.com/JVA>

PHONE: Call toll free  
1-866-752-VOTE (8683)

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ANNUAL MEETING OF THE STOCKHOLDERS  
OF  
COFFEE HOLDING CO., INC.

PLEASE COMPLETE, DATE, SIGN AND RETURN  
PROMPTLY IN THE ENCLOSED ENVELOPE.  
PLEASE MARK YOUR VOTE IN BLUE OR BLACK INK AS  
SHOWN HERE: ý

PROXY SOLICITED ON BEHALF OF THE  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS

<p>Proposal 1</p> <p>Election of Directors to a term set forth below:</p> <table border="0" style="margin-left: 40px;"> <tr> <td style="text-align: right;">Nominees</td> <td style="text-align: right;">Term Expires</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Gerard DeCapua</td> <td>2016</td> <td style="text-align: center;">..</td> <td style="text-align: center;">..</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Robert M. Williams</td> <td>2016</td> <td style="text-align: center;">..</td> <td style="text-align: center;">..</td> <td></td> </tr> </table>	Nominees	Term Expires				Gerard DeCapua	2016	..	..		Robert M. Williams	2016	..	..		<p>à</p> <p>FOR ALL</p> <p>AGAINST</p> <p>FOR ALL EXCEPT</p>				<p>CONTROL ID: REQUEST ID:</p>
Nominees	Term Expires																			
Gerard DeCapua	2016	..	..																	
Robert M. Williams	2016	..	..																	
<p>Proposal 2</p> <p>To ratify the appointment of ParenteBeard LLC as the independent registered public accounting firm of Coffee Holding Co., Inc. for the fiscal year ending October 31, 2013.</p>	<p>à</p> <p>FOR</p> <p>AGAINST</p> <p>ABSTAIN</p>	<p>..</p> <p>..</p> <p>..</p>																		
<p>Proposal 3</p> <p>To approve the Company's 2013 Equity Compensation Plan.</p>	<p>à</p> <p>FOR</p> <p>AGAINST</p> <p>ABSTAIN</p>	<p>..</p> <p>..</p> <p>..</p>																		
<p>Proposal 4</p> <p>To approve, on and advisory basis, the Company's executive compensation.</p>	<p>à</p> <p>FOR</p> <p>AGAINST</p> <p>ABSTAIN</p>	<p>..</p> <p>..</p> <p>..</p>																		
<p>Proposal 5</p> <p>To approve, on an advisory basis, the Company's proposal for a three-year vote on the frequency of the advisory vote on executive compensation.</p>	<p>à</p> <p>1 YEAR</p> <p>2 YEARS</p> <p>3 YEARS</p> <p>ABSTAIN</p>	<p>..</p> <p>..</p> <p>..</p> <p>..</p>																		

MARK HERE  
FOR  
ADDRESS  
CHANGE o  
New Address  
(if applicable):

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The undersigned hereby acknowledges receipt of the Notice of Annual Meeting of Stockholders and the Proxy Statement for the Annual Meeting.

The Board of Directors of Coffee Holding Co., Inc. unanimously recommends a vote "FOR" all nominees in Proposal 1 and "FOR" Proposals 2, 3, 4 and 5.

IMPORTANT: Please sign exactly as your name or names appear on this Proxy. When shares are held jointly, each holder should sign. When signing as executor, administrator, attorney, trustee or guardian, please give full title as such. If the signer is a corporation, please sign full corporate name by duly authorized officer, giving full title as such. If signer is a partnership, please sign in partnership name by authorized person.

This Proxy, when properly executed, will be voted in the manner directed herein by the undersigned stockholder. If no direction is given, this Proxy will be voted FOR each of the proposals listed below. In their discretion, the proxies are authorized to vote upon such other business as may properly come before the Annual Meeting or any adjournment or postponement thereof. As of the date of the Proxy Statement for the Annual Meeting, the Board of Directors is not aware of any such other business.

MARK "X" HERE IF YOU PLAN TO ATTEND THE MEETING: "

(Print Name of Stockholder and/or Joint Tenant)

(Signature of Stockholder)

(Second Signature if held jointly)

Dated: \_\_\_\_\_, 2013

\*\*\* Exercise Your Right to Vote \*\*\*

Important Notice Regarding the Availability of Proxy Materials  
for the Stockholder Meeting to Be Held on April 11, 2013

Annual Meeting of Stockholders  
Thursday, April 11, 2013, 3:00 p.m., local time  
The Hilton Garden Inn  
1100 South Avenue  
Staten Island, New York 10314

This is not a ballot. You cannot use this notice to vote these shares. This communication presents only an overview of the more complete proxy materials that are available to you on the Internet. You may view the proxy materials and the 2012 Annual Report online at <https://www.iproxydirect.com/JVA> or easily request a paper copy (see reverse side).

Before You Vote

How to Access the Proxy Materials

Proxy Materials Available to VIEW or RECEIVE:

2013 Notice and Proxy Statement and 2012 Annual Report

How to View Online: Have the information that is printed in the box marked by the arrow XXXX XXXX XXXX (located on the following page) and visit: <https://www.iproxydirect.com/JVA>.

How to Request and Receive a PAPER or E-MAIL Copy: If you want to receive a paper or e-mail copy of these documents, you must request one. There is NO charge for requesting a copy. On or before March 27, 2013, please write to or call us by using the contact information below if you wish to request these documents:

Issuer Direct Corporation  
Attention: Eddie Tobler  
500 Perimeter Park Dr, Suite D  
Morrisville NC 27560

How To Vote

Please Choose One of the Following Voting Methods

Vote at the Meeting: You can either vote in advance of the meeting via the Internet, or (if paper materials are requested) through the mail.

Vote By Internet: To vote now by Internet, go to <https://www.iproxydirect.com/JVA>.

Have the information that is printed in the box marked by the arrow XXXX XXXX XXXX available and follow the instructions. You will not need other personal information to vote.

Vote By Mail: Vote by mail by requesting a paper copy of the materials, which will include a proxy card.



Voting Items

1. Director Vote (Election of Directors to serve until 2016)

-Gerard DeCapua

-Robert M. Williams

The Board recommends a vote FOR the proposal.

2. Proposal to ratify the appointment of ParenteBeard LLC as our independent registered public accounting firm.

The Board recommends a vote FOR the proposal.

3. Proposal to approve the Company's 2013 Equity Compensation Plan

The Board recommends a vote FOR the proposal.

4. Proposal, on an advisory basis, to approve the Company's executive compensation.

The Board recommends a vote FOR the proposal.

5. Proposal, on an advisory basis, to approve the Company's proposal for a three-year vote on the frequency of the advisory vote on executive compensation.

The Board recommends a vote FOR the proposal.

At their discretion, the Proxies are authorized to vote upon such other business as may properly come before the meeting or adjournment thereof.