Docket #0127 Date Filed: 04/22/2026

IN THE UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT
FOR THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS
HOUSTON DIVISION

In re:	)	Chapter 11
ASCEND ELEMENTS, INC. *et al.*,[1]	)	Case No. 26-90440 (CML)
Debtors.	)	(Jointly Administered)

AFFIDAVIT OF PUBLICATION OF THE NOTICE OF
CHAPTER 11 BANKRUPTCY CASE IN THE NEW YORK TIMES

[1] The Debtors in these chapter 11 cases, along with the last four digits of each Debtor's federal tax identification number, are: Ascend Elements, Inc. (2893) and Ascend Elements US, LLC (8309). The location of the Debtors' service address is: 133 Flanders Road, Westborough, MA 01581.

2690440260422000000000004

The New York Times Company

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New York, NY 10018
nytimes.com

PROOF OF PUBLICATION

April 16, 2026

I, Larnyce Tabron, in my capacity as a Principal Clerk of the Publisher of The New York Times, a daily newspaper of general circulation printed and published in the City, County, and State of New York, hereby certify that the advertisement annexed hereto was published in the editions of The New York Times on the following date or dates, to wit on.

4/16/2026, NY/NATL, pg B5

Larnyce Tabron

ROWENA SORIANO
NOTARY PUBLIC
REG. # 00351915
MY COMMISSION EXPIRES
06302029
COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA

Information to identify the case:
Debtor: **ASCEND ELEMENTS, INC., *et al.*** EIN: 82-2222893
United States Bankruptcy Court for the Southern District of Texas
Date case filed for chapter 11: 04/09/2026
Case number: 26-90440 (CML) (Jointly Administered)
Official Form 309F (For Corporations or Partnerships)

Notice of Chapter 11 Bankruptcy Case 12/17

For the debtors listed above, cases have been filed under chapter 11 of the Bankruptcy Code. An order for relief has been entered.

This notice has important information about the cases for creditors, debtors, and trustees, including information about the meeting of creditors and deadlines. Read both pages carefully.

The filing of the cases imposed an automatic stay against most collection activities. This means that creditors generally may not take action to collect debts from the debtors or the debtors' property. For example, while the stay is in effect, creditors cannot sue, assert a deficiency, repossess property, or otherwise try to collect from the debtors. Creditors cannot demand repayment from the debtors by mail, phone, or otherwise. Creditors who violate the stay can be required to pay actual and punitive damages and attorney's fees.

Confirmation of a chapter 11 plan may result in a discharge of debt. A creditor who wants to have a particular debt excepted from discharge may be required to file a complaint in the bankruptcy clerk's office within the deadline specified in this notice. (See line 11 below for more information.)

To protect your rights, consult an attorney. All documents filed in the cases may be inspected on the website created by Verita Global, the Claims and Noticing Agent for these chapter 11 cases at www.veritaglobal.net/ascend, the bankruptcy clerk's office at the address listed below or through PACER (Public Access to Court Electronic Records at www.pacer.gov). Telephonic inquiries may be directed to Verita at (866) 927-7078.

The staff of the bankruptcy clerk's office cannot give legal advice. Do not file this notice with any proof of claim or other filing in the case.

1. **Debtors' full names:**
Ascend Elements, Inc., EIN: 88-2222893, Case No. 26-90440
Ascend Elements US, LLC, EIN: 41-3028309, Case No. 26-90439

2. **All other names used in the last 8 years:** Battery Resourcers, Inc.

3. **Address Applicable to all Debtors:** 133 Flanders Road, Westborough, MA 01581

4. **Debtors' attorneys: HORTON ROSE FULBRIGHT US LLP,** Ryan Manns (SBT 24041391), Jason Blanchard (SBT 24130197), Maria Mokrzycka (SBT 24119994), Michael Berthiaume (SBT 24066039), John Conover (SBT 24138569), 1550 Lamar, Suite 2000, Houston, Texas 77010, Telephone: (713) 651-5151, Facsimile: (713) 651-5246, Email: ryan.manns@nortonrosefulbright.com, Email: jason.blanchard@nortonrosefulbright.com, Email: maria.mokrzycka@nortonrosefulbright.com, Email: michael.berthiaume@nortonrosefulbright.com, Email: john.conover@nortonrosefulbright.com

5. **Bankruptcy clerk's office: United States Courthouse, 515 Rusk Street, Houston, TX 77002. Hours Open:** Mon-Fri, 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. (CT). **Contact phone:** (713) 250-5500. Documents in this case may be filed at this address. You may inspect all records filed in this case at this office or online at www.pacer.gov.

6. **Meeting of creditors: Not yet set. To be determined.** Location: Telephonic. Date Time . The debtors' representative must attend the meeting to be questioned under oath. Creditors may attend, but are not required to do so. The meeting may be continued or adjourned to a later date. If so, the date will be on the court docket.

7. **Proof of claim deadline: Deadline for filing proof of claim: Not yet set. To be determined. You may file your claim by mail, overnight courier or hand delivery to:** Ascend Claims Processing Center, c/o KCC dba Verita, 222 N Pacific Coast Highway, Suite 300, El Segundo, CA 90245. **Or you may file your claim electronically with the claims agent at the following website: www.veritaglobal.net/ascend.** A proof of claim is a signed statement describing a creditor's claim. A proof of claim form may be obtained at www.uscourts.gov, any bankruptcy clerk's office, or on the case website at www.veritaglobal.net/ascend. Your claim will be allowed in the amount scheduled unless: • your claim is designated as *disputed, contingent,* or *unliquidated;* • you file a proof of claim in a different amount; or • you receive another notice. If your claim is not scheduled or if your claim is designated as *disputed, contingent,* or *unliquidated,* you must file a proof of claim or you might not be paid on your claim and you might be unable to vote on a plan. You may file a proof of claim even if your claim is scheduled. You may review the schedules at the bankruptcy clerk's office, the case website at www.veritaglobal.net/ascend or online at www.pacer.gov. Secured creditors retain rights in their collateral regardless of whether they file a proof of claim. Filing a proof of claim submits a creditor to the jurisdiction of the bankruptcy court, with consequences a lawyer can explain. For example, a secured creditor who files a proof of claim may surrender important nonmonetary rights, including the right to a jury trial.

8. **Exception to discharge deadline:** The bankruptcy clerk's office must receive a complaint and any required filing fee by the following deadline. If § 523(c) applies to your claim and you seek to have it excepted from discharge, you must start a judicial proceeding by filing a complaint by the deadline stated below. **Deadline for filing the complaint: N/A.**

9. **Creditors with a foreign address:** If you are a creditor receiving notice mailed to a foreign address, you may file a motion asking the court to extend the deadlines in this notice. Consult an attorney familiar with United States bankruptcy law if you have any questions about your rights in this case.

10. **Filing a Chapter 11 bankruptcy case:** Chapter 11 allows debtors to reorganize or liquidate according to a plan. A plan is not effective unless the court confirms it. You may receive a copy of the plan and a disclosure statement telling you about the plan, and you may have the opportunity to vote on the plan. You will receive notice of the date of the confirmation hearing, and you may object to confirmation of the plan and attend the confirmation hearing. Unless a trustee is serving, the debtor will remain in possession of the property and may continue to operate its business.

11. **Discharge of debts:** Confirmation of a chapter 11 plan may result in a discharge of debts, which may include all or part of your debt. See 11 U.S.C. § 1141(d). A discharge means that creditors may never try to collect the debt from the debtor except as provided in the plan. If you want to have a particular debt owed to you excepted from the discharge and § 523(c) applies to your claim, you must start a judicial proceeding by filing a complaint and paying the filing fee in the bankruptcy clerk's office by the deadline.

INTERNATIONAL

War Exposes Big Gaps in India's Push for Clean Energy

FROM FIRST BUSINESS PAGE

duction and delivering it consistently when people need it to run businesses or turn on a stove. Battery systems and transmission lines can't be built fast enough.

Only about a quarter of the power generated by India's new sources actually reaches consumers, compared with more than half in China. As a result, India is still relying on oil and gas imported from the Persian Gulf to bridge the gap, a vulnerability rippling across the economy as supplies are disrupted.

India's currency has weakened as oil costs have risen, averaging $120 a barrel for its buyers. The crisis is weighing on the country's long-term growth prospects, forcing energy-intensive industries to lay off workers and factories that pour steel, cast ceramics and weave fabric to slow production.

For Ujjwal Sikdar and his wife, Mitthu, migrant laborers in Gurugram, a skyscraper-studded satellite city of New Delhi, losing access to fuel means cooking over firewood.

Ms. Sikdar, who earns $220 a month as a house cleaner, said her husband now walks outside the city to gather sticks for cooking because black-market gas prices have quadrupled.

"The smoke, the soot, the time it takes — it's exhausting me," Ms. Sikdar said. She no longer makes flatbreads for her husband and son, only rice and dal.

Some neighbors have given up on life in Gurugram and returned to their villages. Reverse migration from city to countryside, as India experienced during the pandemic, can have catastrophic effects on the broader economy.

Yet switching to an electric burner is not an option for families like the Sikdars because energy bills are too high and the supply is too erratic to meet their essential needs.

Amitabh Kant, a former head of a government think tank, wrote last week that India's shift to renewable energy had been impressive but "too cautious" given its exposure to the risk of "wars, shipping disruptions and maritime standoffs."



SAUMYA KHANDELWAL FOR THE NEW YORK TIMES

A worker tends to a solar module at a manufacturing plant in Gangaikondan, India. Most components of a modern energy grid are made in China.

India is more dependent on imported oil than it was in 1990 as the number of cars on the road every year rises faster than domestic oil production.

While electric vehicles are expected to ease that reliance, imported oil and gas will still be needed to make jet fuel, plastics and fertilizer. But Sumant Sinha, the founder and chief executive of ReNew, a giant clean energy company based in Gurugram, said imports accounted for 31 percent of total energy consumption, down from 38 percent in 1990.

The next step, Mr. Sinha said, is ensuring that electricity "not just be abundant, but must be always on and precisely timed." Only then can India reduce its dependence on imported energy, he said.

Coal still dominates India's electricity supply. A well-run solar plant delivers only about 20 percent of its capacity, compared with 75 percent to 100 percent for fossil-fuel facilities.

India is pursuing multiple ways to ease the bottlenecks between power supply and demand. The most ambitious focus is on converting abundant solar energy into forms that can be stored and used later. Some projects pump water into reservoirs to generate hydroelectric power on demand, while others produce "green ammonia," storing energy in a chemical form when the sun is shining.

In one form or another, most solutions depend on batteries, said Agnes Dasewicz, chief investment officer at the Global Energy Alliance, a nonprofit based in New York. Her organization helped set up India's first utility-scale battery system in Kilokri, a neighborhood in New Delhi, less than a year ago. Since then, she said, utilities across the country have asked how they can do the same.

At noon on a sunny day during a recent site visit, a local engineer turned to Ms. Dasewicz and nodded at the humming battery banks. "That's the sound of money," he said, listening to the batteries fill up with some of the cheapest electricity in the world. Annual costs to consumers have come down by about 55 percent, according to the G.E.A.

The savings, Ms. Dasewicz said, come from charging the batteries when electricity is cheapest and then discharging it at night, when demand peaks, to the 12,000 homes the power station serves.

However, achieving a more efficient grid and energy independence requires equipment from China. Chinese companies dominate the manufacturing of nearly every component of a modern grid, including solar panels, cables, transformers and batteries.

Like many other countries, India is in a bind. While it wants to reduce its reliance on Middle Eastern oil, there is growing unease that overreliance on China could undermine economic and national security.

"India must not look toward escaping from one dependency only to walk into another," warned Mr. Kant, the former think tank leader.

Europe Is Desperate for More Energy. Can Norway Come to the Rescue?

By LYNSEY CHUTEL

LONDON — When Russia invaded Ukraine in 2022, Europe faced a cold winter and a sudden energy crisis, and it turned to Norway as it desperately tried to shift away from its dependency on cheap Russian energy.

Now, the war in Iran has threatened global oil supplies and sent prices soaring. Whether or not the war is resolved quickly, those effects could be lasting.

The crisis has once again exposed Europe's energy vulnerability and raised the question of whether Norway could expand its role as a dependable and friendly energy source.

It's not as easy as it may seem.

A Fragile Frontier

Norway is the biggest oil producer by far in Western Europe and exports 95 percent of its oil and nearly all of its gas to the European Union and Britain.

At the moment, Europe gets 30 percent of its oil from Norway.

Its output of two million barrels a day of oil can't compete with the likes of Russia, Saudi Arabia or the United States, and it ranks 12th globally as an oil producer. But it has other things going for it.

"Our product is not oil and gas," said Snorre Skjevrak, a state secretary in Norway's energy ministry, but "stability, reliability and a long-term perspective."

Norway's rigs are already pumping at maximum capacity. Norway's oil companies want to expand operations in the Arctic.

But environmental groups worry about drilling in a region that has been made increasingly fragile by climate change.

They also worry about the risks of an accident in one of the most pristine and hardest-to-reach stretches of the planet.

The government, which owns a majority stake in Norway's largest company, says exploration is environmentally sound.

"What you call the Arctic, we call Norway," Mr. Skjevrak said.

The Norwegian Paradox

For many Norwegians, the perception of profiting from the war does not sit well with the nation's image of itself as international peace broker and home of the Nobel Peace Prize.

Norway has made an extra $5 billion since the war in Iran broke out in February, and economists expect it will make even more. In Oslo, the stock market hit a record high as oil prices spiked and shares in Norwegian oil companies soared.

"It's the best Q1 since 1989 for Norway," said Robert Naess, director of investments at Nordea, a Nordic bank.

Norway is now making $185 million a day in excess revenue from oil and gas, Mr. Naess said. If the instability in the Persian Gulf continues, Norway could make another $6 billion, he estimated.

In 2024, two years into the war in Ukraine, the Norwegian government announced that the country's energy industry had made more than $100 billion in extra revenue.

The government revealed those numbers only after the opposition Green Party demanded transparency. The backlash was instant.

"We took quite a P.R. hit when the war in Ukraine started," said Cecilie Langum Becker, who writes an economics column for Norway's national media outlet, NRK.

This time around, Norway's leaders tried to head off any criticism. Jens Stoltenberg, Norway's finance minister and a former NATO chief, told Norwegians that while they had to accept the "paradox" of vast fortunes being made during a war, Norway was still "best served by peace."

But that has not been enough to stave off moral questions.

"The brutal reality is when the world burns, the money flows into our state budget," Ms. Langum Becker said.

An Alluring Alternative

Norway doesn't need its own oil because 98 percent of its electricity is from renewable energy, and it is one of the world's leading adopters of electric vehicles.

But it does want to keep selling oil for as long as it can.

Production on the Norwegian shelf will naturally decline by the 2030s, so Norway has said it will keep exploring new options.

In March, Equinor, Norway's largest oil company, said it had begun drilling off the coast of Brazil. Last year, Equinor announced that its northernmost rigs in the Arctic Circle began producing oil.

Despite the hand-wringing over war-driven profits, Norwegian public opinion is beginning to shift. It's no longer seen as embarrassing to work in the oil industry, Ms. Langum Becker said.

Henrik Pryser Libell contributed reporting from Oslo, and Jeffrey Gettleman from London.

Southeast Asia Receives Pledge Of $10 Billion From Japanese

By RIVER AKIRA DAVIS and KIUKO NOTOYA

TOKYO — Japan said it would provide about $10 billion in financial support to help Southeast Asian nations cope with soaring oil prices that threaten production of petroleum-derived products in the region.

Japan's prime minister, Sanae Takaichi, announced the initiative on Wednesday at a regional forum that included Japan and major Southeast Asian economies such as Thailand, Vietnam, the Philippines and Malaysia.

The pledge comes as much of Asia is being buffeted by disruptions in oil supplies stemming from the war in the Middle East. With crude prices surging, the aid is intended to help less wealthy nations in the region buy oil from the U.S. and other suppliers.

For Japan, the move is a bid to shore up its own industries and supply chains.

Southeast Asia, in particular, has been battered by the global drop-off in oil supplies. The region is a major manufacturer of products derived from oil that are crucial to producing everything from plastics to clothing — underscoring how the war is disrupting not only a fuel but an essential ingredient for global manufacturing.

Ms. Takaichi said she hopes the financial aid will bolster factories in Southeast Asia.

"Japan will not simply provide oil to countries struggling due to the situation in the Middle East, but will work together with Asian countries to build a resilient energy and critical mineral supply chain," Ms. Takaichi said. Japan's financial support was about a year's worth of Southeast Asian oil imports, she said.

Japan maintains one of the world's largest strategic petroleum reserves — equivalent to 254 days of domestic demand. It began releasing those stocks last month. Still, industry experts have flagged a point of friction: Japan's stockpiles are dedicated to domestic oil refiners, not foreign nations.

Japan has recently struggled with a shortage of naphtha, a crude-oil derivative. The Japanese toilet maker Toto said this week that it was suspending new orders for its prefabricated bathroom units, citing a shortage of naphtha-derived solvents.

Concerns are also mounting over Japan's supply chain for petroleum-derived medical goods. Several patient and physician groups submitted a joint request to Japan's health ministry this month, urging officials to identify which medical supply lines are most at risk from the reduced production of oil byproducts.

Ms. Takaichi said Japan relied on Asian countries for supplies such as hemodialysis equipment, waste fluid containers and surgical gloves.

"Fuel shortages and supply chain disruptions in Asia would hinder the procurement of medical supplies from Asia to Japan," Ms. Takaichi said. The country is therefore distributing aid, she said, "in order to protect the lives and livelihoods of its citizens."

Iran-Linked Ships Slow or Stop in Strait as U.S. Blockade Takes Full Effect

By JENNY GROSS

LONDON — The U.S. Navy blockade of Iranian ports appeared to be working on Wednesday, with no Iranian-linked ships visibly able to leave the region since the blockade took effect 48 hours earlier, according to U.S. authorities and vessel-tracking firms.

Several vessels appear to have stopped or slowed after exiting the Strait of Hormuz into the Gulf of Oman, "which may reflect the deterrent effect of the blockade," Kpler, a maritime data company, noted in a report on Wednesday.

Still, the data is probably incomplete because of how hard it is to track ships in and around the strait. While most commercial vessels are required to travel with transponders that transmit a ship's name, location and other identifying information, many vessels in the Persian Gulf are hiding their location or falsifying other information, according to experts.

Adm. Brad Cooper, the U.S. Central Command leader, said late Tuesday that the blockade had been "fully implemented" and had "completely stopped" commercial traffic to and from Iranian ports. Over a dozen Navy warships are patrolling waters east of the strait, enforcing a blockade on all vessels from all nations entering or leaving coastal areas or ports in Iran.

Central Command said on Wednesday that nine vessels had complied with directions to turn around and re-enter an Iranian port or coastal area, though it did not give details. Kpler, which also uses satellite data to track ships when their locations appear to have been falsified, said two ships with links to Iran and subject to U.S. sanctions appeared to have made U-turns. Eight additional ships that have historically carried Iranian cargo were stationary in the Gulf of Oman or slowing down, according to Ana Subasic, an analyst at Kpler.

One of the ships that reversed course, the Rich Starry, a Chinese tanker under U.S. sanctions, was traveling east through the strait on Tuesday before turning around. The other ship, the Ostria, was heading toward an Iranian port and was turned back before it could pick up cargo, most likely Iranian refined products.

Ms. Subasic said there had been no loadings at Iranian ports since the start of the blockade on Monday. "What you're seeing with the U.S. blockade is they're trying to stop Iranians from lifting their cargoes, but at the same time getting out as many vessels as they can on the U.S. side."

President Trump, in announcing the blockade, said the Navy would encourage ships not linked to Iran to transit the strait. Over a dozen ships without links to Iran moved through the strait on Monday and Tuesday, according to Central Command and tracking firms like Kpler, staying close to the Omani coast and keeping the most distance from possible sea mines in the middle of the strait.

Traffic around the strait is at a fraction of its usual levels, and the effects have rippled through the global economy. Since the blockade took effect, traffic has slowed further, with shipping companies unwilling to risk the crossing.

Nils Haupt, a spokesman for the German shipping company Hapag-Lloyd, which has six vessels and 150 seafarers stranded in the Persian Gulf, said the situation was still too uncertain to make plans for the ships to exit the gulf.

He said the company was concerned about the risk of sea mines. Hapag-Lloyd was also still waiting for assurances that Iran would not target its ships and for answers from U.S. authorities on the order in which stranded ships were supposed to exit the strait.

MUTUAL OF AMERICA LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY
320 PARK AVENUE NEW YORK, NY 10022-6839
212 224 1600

Notice of Election of Directors

The election of Directors of Mutual of America Life Insurance Company will be held at the Home Office, 320 Park Avenue in New York City, Thursday, April 23, 2026, from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. At such election four of the Directors are to be elected to serve for a term expiring in April 2029. Policyholders whose policies or contracts are in force on the date of election and have been in force at least one year prior thereto are entitled to vote in person or by mail, by proxy or by ballot.

Nicholas S. Curabba
Senior Vice President,
Associate General Counsel
and Corporate Secretary

April 16, 2026

Information to identify the case:
Debtor: **ASCEND ELEMENTS, INC., *et al.*** EIN: 82-2222893
United States Bankruptcy Court for the Southern District of Texas
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Official Form 309F (For Corporations of Partnerships)
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6. **Meeting of creditors: Not yet set. To be determined.** Location: Telephonic. Date Time .The debtors' representative must attend the meeting to be questioned under oath. Creditors may attend, but are not required to do so. The meeting may be continued or adjourned to a later date. If so, the date will be on the court docket.
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UCC Public Sale Notice

Please take notice that Jones Lang LaSalle, on behalf of ACRE Q018 Retention Holder, LLC, LLC, a Delaware limited liability company (the "Secured Party") offers for sale at public auction on June 9, 2026 at 10:00 AM (ET) both via Zoom (or similar online platform) and at the steps of the New York Supreme Court, 60 Centre Street, New York, NY 10007, in connection with a Uniform Commercial Code sale, 100% of the limited liability company membership interests in 727 Lofts Best Living, LLC, a Delaware limited liability company (the "Mortgage Borrower"), which is the sole owner of the apartment complex property commonly known as the 727 Lofts located at 727 E. Main Pl, Jenks, OK 74037 and all related pledged collateral (the "Interests"). The Interests are owned by 727 Loft Holdings, LLC, a Delaware limited liability company (the "Pledgor").

The Secured Party, as lender, made a loan (the "Loan") to the Mortgage Borrower. In connection with the Loan, the Pledgor granted to the Secured Party a first priority lien on the Interests pursuant to that certain Pledge and Security Agreement. The Secured Party is offering the Interests for sale in connection with the foreclosure on the pledge of such Interests.

The sale of the Interests will be subject to all applicable third party consents and regulatory approvals, if any. Without limitation to the foregoing, please take notice that there are specific requirements for any potential successful bidder in connection with obtaining information and bidding on the Interests.

The Interests are being offered as a single lot, "as-is, where-is", with no express or implied warranties, representations, statements or conditions of any kind made by the Secured Party or any person acting for or on behalf of the Secured Party, without any recourse whatsoever to the Secured Party or any other person acting for or on behalf of the Secured Party and each bidder must make its own inquiry regarding the Interests. The winning bidder shall be responsible for the payment of all transfer taxes, stamp duties and similar taxes incurred in connection with the purchase of the Interests.

The Secured Party reserves the right to credit bid, set a minimum reserve price, reject all bids (including without limitation any bid that it deems to have been made by a bidder that is unable to satisfy the requirements imposed by the Secured Party upon prospective bidders in connection with the sale or to whom in the Secured Party's sole judgment a sale may not lawfully be made) and terminate or adjourn the sale to another time, without further notice. The Secured Party further reserves the right to restrict prospective bidders to those who will represent that they are purchasing the Interests for their own account for investment not with a view to the distribution or resale of such Interests, to verify that each certificate for the Interests to be sold bears a legend substantially to the effect that such interests have not been registered under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended (the "Securities Act"), and may not be disposed of in violation of the provisions of the Securities Act and to impose such other limitations or conditions in connection with the sale of the Interests as the Secured Party deems necessary or advisable in order to comply with the Securities Act or any other applicable law.

All bids (other than credit bids of the Secured Party) must be for cash, and the successful bidder must be prepared to deliver immediately available good funds within five (5) New York business days after the sale and otherwise comply with the bidding requirements. Further information concerning the Interests, the requirements for obtaining information and bidding on the interests and the Terms of Sale can be found at www.727EMainPlaceJenksOKUCCSale.com.

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