

**DEL TACO RESTAURANTS, INC.  
CHARTER OF  
THE COMPENSATION COMMITTEE  
OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

**I. PURPOSE OF THE COMMITTEE**

The purposes of the Compensation Committee (the “*Committee*”) of the Board of Directors (the “*Board*”) of Del Taco Restaurants, Inc. (the “*Company*”) shall be to oversee the Company’s compensation and employee benefit plans and practices, including its executive compensation plans relating to the compensation of the Company’s chief executive officer (the “*CEO*”) and other executive officers, and its incentive-compensation and equity-based plans; to review and discuss with management the Company’s compensation discussion and analysis (“*CD&A*”) to be included in the Company’s annual proxy statement or annual report on Form 10-K filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission (“*SEC*”); to prepare the Compensation Committee Report as required by the rules of the SEC; and to perform such further functions as may be consistent with this Charter or assigned by applicable law, the Company’s charter or bylaws or the Board.

**II. COMPOSITION OF THE COMMITTEE**

The Committee shall consist of two or more directors (including a chairperson) as determined from time to time by the Board. Each member of the Committee shall be qualified to serve on the Committee pursuant to the requirements of the NASDAQ Stock Market LLC (“*NASDAQ*”), and any additional requirements that the Board deems appropriate. In determining whether a director is eligible to serve on the Committee, the Board shall affirmatively determine that the director is independent under the rules and regulations of the SEC and NASDAQ, considering all factors specifically relevant to determining whether a director has any relationship to the Company that is material to that director’s ability to be independent from management in connection with the duties of a Committee member, including but not limited to the source of the director’s compensation and the director’s affiliation with the Company, a subsidiary of the Company or an affiliate of a subsidiary of the Company. Members of the Committee shall also qualify as “non-employee directors” within the meaning of Rule 16b-3 promulgated under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended, and “outside directors” within the meaning of Section 162(m) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended (the “*Code*”). In the event the Committee has directors who are not outside directors and/or non-employee directors, the members of the Committee who are outside directors and non-employee directors shall constitute a subcommittee with authority to act on behalf of the Committee with respect to matters falling within the ambit of Section 162(m) of the Code and/or Rule 16b-3.

The chairperson of the Committee shall be designated by the Board, *provided* that if the Board does not so designate a chairperson, the members of the Committee, by a majority vote, may designate a chairperson.

Any vacancy on the Committee shall be filled by majority vote of the Board. No member of the Committee shall be removed except by majority vote of the Board.

### **III. MEETINGS AND PROCEDURES OF THE COMMITTEE**

The Committee shall meet as often as it determines necessary to carry out its duties and responsibilities, but no less than twice annually. The Committee, in its discretion, may ask members of management or others to attend its meetings (or portions thereof) and to provide pertinent information as necessary, *provided* that the Chief Executive Officer of the Company may not be present during any portion of a Committee meeting in which deliberation or any vote regarding his or her compensation occurs.

A majority of the members of the Committee present in person or by means of a conference telephone or other communications equipment by means of which all persons participating in the meeting can hear each other shall constitute a quorum. The Committee shall act on the affirmative vote of a majority of members present at a meeting at which a quorum is present.

The Committee shall maintain minutes of its meetings and records relating to those meetings and shall report regularly to the Board on its activities, as appropriate.

### **IV. DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE COMMITTEE**

In addition to such other duties as may be assigned by law, the Board or the Company's charter or bylaws, the Committee shall be responsible for executive compensation and general compensation and employee benefit plans (as described below).

#### ***A. Executive Compensation***

The Committee shall have the following duties and responsibilities with respect to the Company's executive compensation plans:

(a) To review at least annually the goals and objectives of the Company's executive compensation plans, and amend, or recommend that the Board amend, these goals and objectives if the Committee deems it appropriate.

(b) To review at least annually the Company's executive compensation plans in light of the Company's goals and objectives with respect to such plans, and, if the Committee deems it appropriate, adopt, or recommend to the Board the adoption of, new, or the amendment of existing, executive compensation plans.

(c) To evaluate annually the performance of the Chief Executive Officer in light of the goals and objectives of the Company's executive compensation plans, and, either as a Committee or together with the other independent directors (as directed by the Board), determine and approve the Chief Executive Officer's compensation level, including salary, bonus, incentive and equity compensation, based on this evaluation. The Chief Executive Officer may not be present

during the Committee's voting or deliberations. In determining the long-term incentive component of the Chief Executive Officer's compensation, the Committee shall consider factors as it determines relevant, which may include, for example, the Company's performance and relative stockholder return, the value of similar awards to chief executive officers of comparable companies, and the awards given to the Chief Executive Officer of the Company in past years. The Committee may discuss the Chief Executive Officer's compensation with the Board if it chooses to do so.

(d) To evaluate annually the performance of the other executive officers of the Company in light of the goals and objectives of the Company's executive compensation plans, and either as a Committee or together with the other independent directors (as directed by the Board), determine and approve the compensation, including salary, bonus, incentive and equity compensation, of such other executive officers. To the extent that long-term incentive compensation is a component of such executive officer's compensation, the Committee shall consider all relevant factors in determining the appropriate level of such compensation, including the factors applicable with respect to the Chief Executive Officer.

(e) To evaluate annually the appropriate level of compensation for Board and Committee service by non-employee directors.

(f) To review and approve any employment agreements, change-in-control provisions, severance or termination arrangements to be made with any executive officer of the Company.

(g) To perform such duties and responsibilities as may be assigned to the Board or the Committee under the terms of any executive compensation plan.

(h) To review and approve any special perquisites, cash payments and/or other compensation and personal benefits to the Company's executive officers and directors and recommend any changes to the Board.

(i) To consider the results of the most recent shareholder advisory vote on executive compensation as required by Section 14A of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended (the "**Exchange Act**") and, to the extent the Committee determines it appropriate to do so, take such results into consideration in connection with the review and approval of compensation policies and executive officer compensation.

(j) To review and discuss with management the Company's CD&A, and based on that review and discussion, to recommend to the Board that the CD&A be included in the Company's annual proxy statement or annual report on Form 10-K.

(k) To review compensation arrangements for the Company's employees to evaluate whether incentive and other forms of pay encourage unnecessary or excessive risk taking, and review and discuss, at least annually, the relationship between risk management policies and practices, corporate strategy and the Company's compensation arrangements.

(l) To the extent it deems necessary, review and approve the terms of any compensation “clawback” or similar policy or agreement between the Company and the Company’s executive officers or other employees subject to Section 16 of the Exchange Act.

(m) To prepare the annual Compensation Committee Report in accordance with the rules and regulations of the SEC for inclusion in the Company’s annual proxy statement or annual report on Form 10-K.

Notwithstanding anything to the contrary in the foregoing, the Committee shall have sole discretion and authority with respect to any action regarding compensation payable to the Chief Executive Officer or other executive officers of the Company that the Committee intends to constitute “qualified performance-based compensation” for purposes of section 162(m) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended and the Treasury Regulations promulgated thereunder.

### ***B. General Compensation and Employee Benefit Plans***

The Committee shall have the following duties and responsibilities with respect to the Company’s general compensation and employee benefit plans, including incentive-compensation and equity-based plans:

(a) To review at least annually the goals and objectives of the Company’s general compensation plans and other employee benefit plans, including incentive-compensation and equity-based plans, and amend, or recommend that the Board amend, these goals and objectives if the Committee deems it appropriate.

(b) To review at least annually the Company’s general compensation plans and other employee benefit plans, including incentive-compensation and equity-based plans, in light of the goals and objectives of these plans, and recommend that the Board amend these plans if the Committee deems it appropriate.

(c) To review all equity-compensation plans to be submitted for stockholder approval under the NASDAQ listing standards, and to review and, in the Committee’s sole discretion, approve all equity-compensation plans that are exempt from such stockholder approval requirement.

(d) To implement and administer the Company’s incentive compensation equity-based remuneration plans, if any.

(e) To perform such duties and responsibilities as may be assigned to the Board or the Committee under the terms of any compensation or other employee benefit plan, including any incentive-compensation or equity-based plan.

## **V. ROLE OF CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER**

The Chief Executive Officer may make, and the Committee may consider, recommendations to the Committee regarding the Company's compensation and employee benefit plans and practices, including its executive compensation plans, its incentive-compensation and equity-based plans with respect to executive officers other than the Chief Executive Officer and the Company's director compensation arrangements.

## **VI. DELEGATION OF AUTHORITY**

The Committee may form subcommittees for any purpose that the Committee deems appropriate and may delegate to such subcommittees such power and authority as the Committee deems appropriate; *provided, however*, that no subcommittee shall consist of fewer than two members; and *provided further* that the Committee shall not delegate to a subcommittee any power or authority required by any law, regulation or listing standard to be exercised by the Committee as a whole.

## **VII. EVALUATION OF THE COMMITTEE**

The Committee shall, no less frequently than annually, evaluate its performance. In conducting this review, the Committee shall evaluate whether this Charter appropriately addresses the matters that are or should be within its scope and shall recommend such changes as it deems necessary or appropriate. The Committee shall address all matters that the Committee considers relevant to its performance, including at least the following: the adequacy, appropriateness and quality of the information and recommendations presented by the Committee to the Board, the manner in which they were discussed or debated, and whether the number and length of meetings of the Committee were adequate for the Committee to complete its work in a thorough and thoughtful manner.

The Committee shall deliver to the Board a report, which may be oral, setting forth the results of its evaluation, including any recommended amendments to this Charter and any recommended changes to the Company's or the Board's policies or procedures.

## **VIII. INVESTIGATIONS AND STUDIES; OUTSIDE ADVISERS**

The Committee may conduct or authorize investigations into or studies of matters within the Committee's scope of responsibilities, and may, in its sole discretion, retain or obtain the advice of a compensation consultant, legal counsel or other adviser. The Committee shall be directly responsible for the appointment, compensation and oversight of the work of any compensation consultant, legal counsel or other adviser retained by the Committee, the expense of which shall be borne by the Company. The Committee may select a compensation consultant, legal counsel or other adviser to the Committee only after taking into consideration the following:

- (a) The provision of other services to the Company by the person that employs the compensation consultant, legal counsel or other adviser;
- (b) The amount of fees received from the Company by the person that employs the

compensation consultant, legal counsel or other adviser, as a percentage of the total revenue of the person that employs the compensation consultant, legal counsel or other adviser;

- (c) The policies and procedures of the person that employs the compensation consultant, legal counsel or other adviser that are designed to prevent conflicts of interest;
- (d) Any business or personal relationship of the compensation consultant, legal counsel or other adviser with a member of the Committee;
- (e) Any stock of the Company owned by the compensation consultant, legal counsel or other adviser; and
- (f) Any business or personal relationship of the compensation consultant, legal counsel, other adviser or the person employing the adviser with an executive officer of the Company.

The Committee shall conduct the independence assessment with respect to any compensation consultant, legal counsel or other adviser that provides advice to the Committee, other than: (i) in-house legal counsel and (ii) any compensation consultant, legal counsel or other adviser whose role is limited to the following activities for which no disclosure would be required under Item 407(e)(3)(iii) of Regulation S-K: consulting on any broad-based plan that does not discriminate in scope, terms, or operation, in favor of executive officers or directors of the Company, and that is available generally to all salaried employees; or providing information that either is not customized for the Company or that is customized based on parameters that are not developed by the compensation consultant, and about which the compensation consultant does not provide advice.

Nothing herein requires a compensation consultant, legal counsel or other compensation adviser to be independent, only that the Committee consider the enumerated independence factors before selecting or receiving advice from a compensation consultant, legal counsel or other compensation adviser. The Committee may select or receive advice from any compensation consultant, legal counsel or other compensation adviser it prefers, including ones that are not independent, after considering the six independence factors outlined above.

Nothing herein shall be construed: (1) to require the Committee to implement or act consistently with the advice or recommendations of the compensation consultant, legal counsel or other adviser to the Committee; or (2) to affect the ability or obligation of the Committee to exercise its own judgment in fulfillment of its duties.

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While the members of the Committee have the duties and responsibilities set forth in this Charter, nothing contained in this Charter is intended to create, or should be construed as

creating, any responsibility or liability of members of the Committee, except to the extent otherwise provided under applicable federal or state law.