

EXHIBIT “A”

CHARMING SHOPPES, INC. AUDIT COMMITTEE OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS CHARTER

1. PURPOSE

The purposes of the Audit Committee are to assist the Board of Directors in fulfilling its oversight responsibilities to the Company’s shareholders, the investment community and others and to oversee the accounting and financial reporting processes of the Company, including its internal control over financial reporting, and the audits of the Company’s financial statements and its internal control over financial reporting. In furtherance of those oversight responsibilities, the Audit Committee’s primary duties and responsibilities are to:

- (a) Serve as an independent and objective party to monitor the quality, reliability and integrity of the Company’s accounting and financial reporting processes, including its internal control over financial reporting.
- (b) Monitor compliance with ethics policies, and legal and regulatory requirements.
- (c) Review and evaluate the qualifications, independence and performance of the Company’s independent auditors and internal auditors.
- (d) Be directly responsible for the appointment, retention and compensation of the independent auditors, including pre-approving all audit, audit related and permissible non-audit services.
- (e) Provide an open avenue of communication among and individually with the independent auditors, internal auditors, members of management and the Board of Directors, and take appropriate actions resulting from this interaction.

The Audit Committee is also responsible for oversight of the Company’s risks relating to accounting matters, financial reporting and legal and regulatory compliance.

Consistent with these duties and responsibilities, the Audit Committee should encourage continuous improvement of, and should foster adherence to, the Company’s accounting and financial reporting policies, procedures and practices at all levels.

The Audit Committee has the authority to retain and consult with, at the Company’s expense, outside legal, accounting, or other advisors or experts it deems necessary or appropriate in the performance of its duties and responsibilities. In addition, the Audit Committee has the authority to conduct any investigation it deems necessary in fulfilling its duties and responsibilities.

2. COMPOSITION

The Audit Committee shall be comprised of three or more directors, each of whom shall be an independent non-executive director who is not an affiliated person of the Company, who does not accept directly or indirectly any consulting, advisory or other compensatory fee from the Company other than in his or her capacity as a member of the Board of Directors or any of its committees, and who is otherwise free from any relationship that the Board of Directors finds would interfere with the exercise of his or her independence from management and the Company, in each case, in accordance with the applicable independence requirements of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002 and related rules of the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) and the NASDAQ Marketplace Rules and NASDAQ Global Select Market listing requirements.

Each member of the Audit Committee shall be financially literate and able to read and understand the Company's financial statements. In addition, at least one member of the Audit Committee must have past employment experience in finance or accounting, requisite professional certification in accounting, or any other comparable experience or background that results in financial sophistication, including being or having been a chief executive officer, chief financial officer or other senior officer with financial oversight responsibilities. This member must also, in the judgment of the Board of Directors, fall within the SEC's definition of an audit committee financial expert.

The members of the Audit Committee shall be elected by the Board of Directors at the annual meeting of the Board and shall serve until their successors shall be duly elected and qualified. The Chair of the Committee shall be elected by the Board of Directors.

3. MEETINGS

The Audit Committee shall meet at least three (3) times annually, or more frequently as circumstances dictate. As part of its job to foster open communication, the Committee shall meet in executive sessions at least annually with management, the Director of Business Assurance and Advisory Services (Internal Audit), the independent auditors, and independently as a Committee to discuss any matters that the Committee or any of these groups believe should be discussed privately. In addition, the Committee or at least its Chair should meet with the independent auditors and management quarterly.

4. RESPONSIBILITIES

The Audit Committee's primary responsibility is one of oversight of the Company's auditing, accounting and financial reporting processes including its internal control over financial reporting on behalf of the Company's Board of Directors. The Company's management is responsible for the preparation, presentation and integrity of the Company's financial statements, for the appropriateness of the accounting principles and reporting policies that are used by the Company and for establishing and maintaining effective internal control over financial reporting. The independent auditors are responsible for auditing the Company's financial statements and expressing an opinion as to their conformity with generally accepted accounting principles,

reviewing the Company's unaudited quarterly financial statements and auditing and expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Company's internal control over financial reporting. In addition, the Committee recognizes that financial management, the independent auditors, and the internal auditors have more time, knowledge and more detailed information on the Company than do Committee members. Consequently, in carrying out its oversight responsibilities, the Committee is not providing any expert or special assurance as to the Company's financial statements or any professional certification as to the independent auditors' work.

The Audit Committee is responsible for oversight of Company risks relating to accounting matters, financial reporting and legal and regulatory compliance. To satisfy these oversight responsibilities, the Committee shall meet regularly with the Company's chief accounting officer, director of internal audit (also known as Business Assurance and Advisory Services), General Counsel, external auditors and management.

While the Audit Committee believes its policies and practices should remain flexible to best react to a changing environment, to fulfill its responsibilities the Audit Committee shall:

(a) **Financial Reporting Process**

1. Make regular reports to the Board of Directors and review and assess the adequacy of this Charter on an annual basis and recommend any proposed changes to the Board for approval. The Committee shall publish the Charter in accordance with the rules and regulations of the SEC and conduct an annual evaluation of the performance of the Committee in fulfilling its duties and responsibilities under this Charter.
2. Prepare the Audit Committee report as required by the SEC and publish this report in the Company's annual Proxy Statement.
3. Review with management, the independent auditors and internal auditors the annual and quarterly financial results before release of earnings.
4. Review with management, the independent auditors and internal auditors the Company's annual audited financial statements, including the clarity of financial and non-financial disclosures made in the Company's financial statements, footnotes and Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations included in the Company's Annual Report on Form 10-K, before filing and distribution. Such review shall include discussing with the independent auditors those matters required to be communicated under the standards of the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board. Based on these reviews, the Audit Committee will advise the Board of Directors whether it recommends that the audited financial statements be included in the Annual Report on Form 10-K.

5. Review with management, the independent auditors and internal auditors the Company's unaudited quarterly financial statements, including the clarity of financial and non-financial disclosures made in the Company's financial statements, footnotes and Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations included in the Company's quarterly reports on Form 10-Q, before filing and distribution. Such review shall include discussing with the independent auditors those matters required to be communicated under the standards of the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board. The Chair of the Committee may represent the Audit Committee for purposes of this review.
6. Review with management, the independent auditors and the internal auditors, the quality, reliability and integrity of the Company's accounting and financial reporting processes; the adequacy and effectiveness of internal control over financial reporting, including any significant deficiencies and material weaknesses in the design or operation of internal control over financial reporting; and significant changes in internal control over financial reporting that has materially effected or is reasonably likely to materially affect, the Company's internal control over financial reporting; any fraud, whether or not material, that involves management or other employees who have a significant role in the Company's internal control over financial reporting; management's evaluation of the effectiveness of the Company's disclosure controls and procedures; management's assessment process and evaluation of the effectiveness of the Company's internal control over financial reporting; the disclosures regarding controls and procedures required by the rules and regulations of the SEC to be contained in the Company's periodic reports; and the certifications, attestations or reports relating to such disclosures.
7. Review with management, the independent auditors and the internal auditors the Company's critical accounting policies and practices; significant financial reporting issues and judgments and estimates made in connection with the preparation of the financial statements; the quality, not just the acceptability, of the accounting principles and underlying estimates used in the financial statements; major issues regarding accounting principles and financial statement presentations, including any changes in the Company's selection or application of accounting principles; the effects of alternative treatments under generally accepted accounting principles on the financial statements that have been discussed with management and other material communications between the independent auditors and management, such as any unadjusted differences and accounting adjustments that were noted or proposed by the independent auditors but were passed (as immaterial or otherwise).
8. Discuss the nature of any unusual or significant commitments or contingent liabilities and the Company's policies with respect to risk assessment and risk

management, including major financial risk exposures and the steps management has taken to monitor and control such exposures.

9. Discuss generally with management the Company's earnings press releases before issuance, as well as financial and statistical information and earnings guidance provided to analysts, and rating agencies and others from time to time.

(b) Independent Auditors

1. Be directly responsible for the appointment (subject, if applicable, to shareholder ratification), retention, compensation (at the Company's expense), oversight and evaluation of the work of the Company's independent auditors (including the resolution of disagreements between management and the independent auditors regarding financial reporting) for the purpose of preparing or issuing an audit report or performing other audit, review or attest services. The independent auditors shall report directly to the Audit Committee. The evaluation by the Committee should include the review and evaluation of the lead partner of the independent auditors and take into account the opinions of management and the Company's personnel responsible for internal audit.
2. Pre-approve all audit, audit related and permissible non-audit services to be performed by the independent auditors pursuant to pre-approval policies and procedures established by the Audit Committee; or delegate the authority to pre-approve such services to one or more members of the Audit Committee, who shall report any decision to pre-approve any such service to the full Committee at its regularly scheduled meetings.
3. Be responsible for assuring its receipt from the independent auditors of a formal written statement delineating all relationships between the independent auditors and the Company, pursuant to applicable requirements of the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board, and for actively engaging in a dialogue with the independent auditors with respect to any disclosed relationships or services that may impact the objectivity and independence of the independent auditors and for taking appropriate action to oversee the independence of the outside auditors.
4. Obtain and review, at least annually, a report by the independent auditors describing the independent auditors internal quality-control procedures and any material issues raised by the most recent internal quality-control review, peer review, or Public Company Accounting Oversight Board inspection, of the independent auditing firm, or by any inquiry or investigation by governmental or professional authorities, within the preceding five years

respecting one or more independent audits carried out by the firm, and any steps taken to deal with any such issues.

5. Review with the independent auditors and determine that the independent auditor has a process in place to address the rotation of the lead audit partner and other audit partners serving the account as required by the SEC independence rules.
6. Review with the independent auditors the scope, fees, engagement letter terms and nature of the prospective audit and related audit plan and significant changes thereto, as well as the extent of reliance upon management, and coordination with the internal auditors.
7. Discuss with the independent auditors any issues reviewed with the auditor's national office regarding auditing or accounting issues identified during the engagement.
8. Review with the independent auditors any audit problems or difficulties encountered during the course of the audit work, including any restrictions on the scope of the independent auditors' activities or access to requested information, and any significant disagreements with management, including management's response to such matters; and any findings and recommendations the independent auditors may have, together with management's responses and action plans, relating to the internal controls and accounting policies and practices of the Company.
9. Monitor the Company's hiring of current or former employees of the independent auditors.

(c) Internal Auditors

1. Review the appointment and replacement of and evaluate the Director of Business Assurance and Advisory Services (Internal Audit) (who shall report directly to the Audit Committee); and review any issues that arise regarding the performance of the Company's internal auditors.
2. Discuss with management, the independent auditors and the Director of Business Assurance and Advisory Services (Internal Audit), the organization of internal audit, the adequacy of its resources and the competence and performance of internal audit personnel.
3. Review with the internal auditors the audit risk assessment process, annual internal audit plan and activities and significant changes thereto, as well as the coordination between the internal auditors and the Company's independent auditors.

4. Review with the internal auditors any audit problems or difficulties encountered during the course of internal audits, including any restrictions on the scope of the internal auditors' activities or access to requested information, and any significant disagreements with management, including management's response to such matters; and any significant findings and recommendations resulting from internal audits, together with management's responses and action plans.

(d) Ethical and Legal Compliance

1. Review management's monitoring of compliance with the Company's business ethics and standards of conduct policy and legal and regulatory requirements and review and investigate any matters, including those pertaining to the integrity of management, including conflicts of interest, or adherence to standards of business conduct, as required by the compliance policy. The Committee shall receive corporate attorneys' reports of evidence of a material violation of securities laws or breaches of fiduciary duty.
2. Review with management, Company's counsel and other experts, as applicable, any legal or regulatory matter that could have a significant impact on the Company's financial statements, the Company's compliance with applicable laws and regulations, and inquiries received from regulators or governmental agencies.
3. Establish procedures for the receipt, retention and treatment of complaints received by the Company regarding accounting, internal accounting controls or auditing matters, and the confidential, anonymous submission by the Company's employees of concerns regarding questionable accounting or auditing matters.
4. Perform any other activities consistent with this Charter, the Company's By-laws and governing law, as the Audit Committee or the Board of Directors deems necessary or appropriate.

Approved by the Audit Committee on April 14, 2003
Approved by the Board of Directors on April 15, 2003
Approved by the Audit Committee on April 7, 2004
Approved by the Board of Directors on April 8, 2004
Approved by the Audit Committee April 12, 2005
Approved by the Board of Directors April 14, 2005
Approved by the Board of Directors April 24, 2006
Approved by the Audit Committee April 24, 2006
Approved by the Audit Committee April 25, 2007
Approved by the Board of Directors April 26, 2007
Approved by the Audit Committee March 10, 2008
Approved by the Board of Directors March 10, 2008
Approved by the Audit Committee April 29, 2009
Approved by the Audit Committee April 28, 2010
Approved by the Audit Committee April 27, 2011