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

	FORM 8-K	
	CURRENT REPORT	
	Pursuant to Section 13 or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 19	34
Date of Rep	oort (Date of earliest event reported): Dec	ember 9, 2024
(E	COMPASS THERAPEUTICS, IN exact name of registrant as specified in its chargest control of the co	
Delaware (State or Other Jurisdiction of Incorporation)	001-39696 (Commission File Number)	82-4876496 (I.R.S. Employer Identification No.)
(A	80 Guest Street, Suite 601 Boston, Massachusetts 02135 ddress of Principal Executive Offices) (Zip C	Code)
(R	(617) 500-8099 egistrant's telephone number, including area	code)
(Forme	Not Applicable or name or former address, if changed since la	ast report)
Check the appropriate box below if the Form 8-K filin following provisions:	g is intended to simultaneously satisfy the fil	ing obligation of the registrant under any of the
 □ Written communications pursuant to Rule 425 und □ Soliciting material pursuant to Rule 14a-12 under □ Pre-commencement communications pursuant to □ Pre-commencement communications pursuant to 	the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.14a-12) Rule 14d-2(b) under the Exchange Act (17 C	
Securities registered pursuant to Section 12(b) of the A	Act:	
Title of each class Common Stock, \$0.0001 par value per share	Trading Symbol(s) CMPX	Name of each exchange on which registered NASDAQ Capital Market
Indicate by check mark whether the registrant is an em chapter) or Rule 12b-2 of the Securities Exchange Act	nerging growth company as defined in Rule 4	
Emerging growth company ⊠		
If an emerging growth company, indicate by check ma or revised financial accounting standards provided pur		extended transition period for complying with any new

Item 5.02. Departure of Directors or Certain Officers; Election of Directors; Appointment of Certain Officers; Compensatory Arrangements of Certain Officers.

Appointment of Barry Shin as Chief Financial Officer

On December 10, 2024, Compass Therapeutics, Inc. (the "Company") announced the decision of the Company's Board of Directors (the "Board") to appoint Barry Shin, J.D., M.B.A. age 53, as the Company's Chief Financial Officer ("CFO") and principal financial officer effective December 9, 2024. Mr. Shin replaces Thomas Schuetz, Chief Executive Officer of the Company, as principal financial officer.

Prior to joining the Company, Mr. Shin served as Executive Vice President, Chief Operating Officer & Chief Financial Officer at Trevena, Inc. (OTC: TRVN). He was promoted to that role in February 2024 after serving as Senior Vice President and Chief Financial Officer from June 2019 until February 2024. Previously, Mr. Shin was a Managing Director in the Healthcare Investment Banking Groups at Mizuho Securities and Guggenheim Securities. He also served in positions of increasing responsibility within the Healthcare Investment Banking Group of Piper Sandler after beginning his career advising healthcare and technology companies in financing and M&A transactions as a corporate attorney. Mr. Shin received a B.Sc. and joint J.D./M.B.A. from the University of Toronto.

In connection with Mr. Shin's appointment as Chief Financial Officer of the Company, Mr. Shin entered into an Employment Agreement with the Company, dated December 9, 2024 (the "Employment Agreement"). Pursuant to the Employment Agreement, Mr. Shin will receive an annual base salary of \$475,000 and be eligible for an annual target bonus of 45% of his base salary. In addition, he will receive a one-time, sign-on bonus of \$50,000, subject to certain continuing service requirements. Mr. Shin also received an award of stock options for 400,000 shares of common stock with an exercise price equal to the Company's closing price on the Nasdaq Global Market on the December 9, 2024 date of grant of \$1.65 per share and Restricted Stock Units ("RSUs") with respect to 400,000 shares of common stock. The options and RSUs granted to Mr. Shin vest as follows: (i) with respect to the options, 25% will vest one year from the grant date and the remainder monthly over the 36 months following that date; and (ii) with respect to the RSUs, 25% will vest annually over four years on each anniversary of the date of grant, in each case subject to Mr. Shin's continued employment. Mr. Shin is also eligible to participate in the Company's employee benefit plans available to its employees, subject to the terms of those plans.

Under the Employment Agreement, if Mr. Shin's employment is terminated by the Company other than for "Cause" (as defined in the Employment Agreement) or if Mr. Shin terminates his employment for "Good Reason" (as defined in the Employment Agreement), and if the termination does not occur during the 12 months following a Change in Control, Mr. Shin will receive the following severance benefits: (a) 9 months of continued base salary payments; and (b) up to 9 months of Company-reimbursed Consolidated Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act ("COBRA") premiums. In addition, if the Company terminates Mr. Shin other than for Cause or if Mr. Shin terminates his employment for Good Reason during the 12-month period following a Change in Control (as defined in the Employment Agreement), then Mr. Shin will, instead of the severance benefits described above, receive the following severance benefits: (i) a lump sum payment equal to (x) 12 months of continued base salary payments and target bonus for such period, (y) unpaid annual bonus for the prior year if termination occurs in the first calendar quarter of the year plus (z) target bonus prorated for the amount of time employed for the year in which termination occurs; (ii) up to 12 months of Company-reimbursed COBRA premiums; and (iii) vesting of all outstanding and unvested time-based stock-based awards then held by Mr. Shin will accelerate in full. Mr. Shin's right to receive these severance benefits is subject to his providing a release of claims in favor of the Company.

The foregoing descriptions of the material terms of the Employment Agreement is a summary and is qualified in its entirety by reference to the complete text of the Employment Agreement, which is filed herewith as Exhibit 10.1 and incorporated by reference herein in its entirety.

There are no other arrangements or understandings between Mr. Shin and any other person pursuant to which he was appointed to the positions described in this Current Report on Form 8-K, there are no family relationships between Mr. Shin and any director or officer of the Company, and Mr. Shin is not a party to any transaction that requires disclosure under Item 404(a) of Regulation S-K.

The Company will enter into an indemnification agreement with Mr. Shin in connection with his employment, which will be in substantially the same form as that entered into with the other executive officers of the Company.

Appointment of Neil Lerner as Principal Accounting Officer

Simultaneous to the appointment of Mr. Shin, on December 9, 2024, the Board appointed Neil Lerner, CPA, age 57, the Company's current Vice President of Finance, as the Company's principal accounting officer. Mr. Lerner replaces Mr. Schuetz as principal accounting officer. Mr. Lerner has served as the Company's Vice President of Finance since November of 2020. Prior to joining the Company, Mr. Lerner was the Vice President of Finance and Primary Financial Officer at Psychemedics Corporation (NASDAQ: PMD) from October 2010 to November 2020. He previously held various financial leadership roles at Johnson & Johnson (NYSE: JNJ), Beacon Roofing Supply, Inc. and Mastec, Inc. Mr. Lerner is a CPA and holds a Master's Degree in International Management from the University of Denver and a B.S. in Accounting from the University of Colorado.

There are no other arrangements or understandings between Mr. Lerner and any other person pursuant to which he was appointed principal accounting officer, there are no family relationships between Mr. Lerner and any director or officer of the Company, and Mr. Lerner is not a party to any transaction that requires disclosure under Item 404(a) of Regulation S-K.

Item 7.01. Regulation FD Disclosure.

On December 10, 2024, the Company issued a press release announcing the appointment of Mr. Shin as Chief Financial Officer. A copy of the press release is attached hereto as Exhibit 99.1.

The information in this Item 7.01 of this Current Report on Form 8-K shall not be deemed "filed" for purposes of Section 18 of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended (the "Exchange Act"), or otherwise subject to the liabilities of that section, nor shall it be deemed incorporated by reference in any filing under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, or the Exchange Act, except as expressly set forth by specific reference in such filing.

Item 9.01. Financial Statements and Exhibits.

(d) Exhibits

Exhibit No. Description

10.1 Employment Agreement, dated December 9, 2024, by and between Compass Therapeutics, Inc. and Barry Shin

99.1 Press Release dated December 10, 2024

SIGNATURE

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

Compass Therapeutics, Inc.

Date: December 10, 2024 By: /s/ Thomas Schuetz

Thomas Schuetz

President and Chief Executive Officer

COMPASS THERAPEUTICS, INC.

EMPLOYMENT AGREEMENT

This Employment Agreement ("Agreement"), dated as of December 9, 2024, is made between Compass Therapeutics, Inc., a Delaware corporation (including all wholly owned subsidiaries of Compass Therapeutics, Inc., the "Company"), and Barry Shin (the "Executive"). Except with respect to the Restrictive Covenants Agreement and the Equity Documents (each as defined below), this Agreement supersedes in all respects all prior agreements between the Executive and the Company regarding the subject matter herein, including without limitation any offer letter, employment agreement or severance agreement.

WHEREAS, the Company desires to employ the Executive and the Executive desires to be employed by the Company on the terms and conditions contained herein.

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

1. <u>Employment</u>.

- (a) <u>Term.</u> The Company shall employ the Executive and the Executive shall be employed by the Company pursuant to this Agreement until such employment is terminated in accordance with the provisions hereof (the "Term"). The Executive's employment with the Company will be "at will," meaning that the Executive's employment may be terminated by the Company or the Executive at any time and for any reason subject to the terms of this Agreement.
- (b) <u>Position and Duties</u>. The Executive shall serve as the Executive Vice President, Chief Financial Officer of the Company, reporting to the Chief Executive Officer ("CEO"), and shall have such powers and duties as may from time to time be prescribed by the CEO or other duly authorized executive. The Executive shall devote the Executive's full working time and efforts to the business and affairs of the Company. Notwithstanding the foregoing, the Executive may serve on other boards of directors, with the approval of the Board of Directors of the Company (the "Board"), or engage in religious, charitable or other community activities as long as such services and activities are disclosed to the Board and do not interfere with the Executive's performance of the Executive's duties to the Company. To the extent applicable, the Executive shall be deemed to have resigned from all officer and board member positions that the Executive holds with the Company or any officer and board member positions of its respective subsidiaries and affiliates upon the termination of the Executive's employment for any reason. The Executive shall execute any documents in reasonable form as may be requested to confirm or effectuate any such resignations.

2. <u>Compensation and Related Matters.</u>

(a) <u>Base Salary</u>. The Executive's initial base salary shall be paid at the rate of \$475,000 per year. The Executive's base salary shall be subject to periodic review by the Board or the Compensation Committee of the Board (the "Compensation Committee"). The base salary in effect at any given time is referred to herein as "Base Salary." The Base Salary shall be payable in a manner that is consistent with the Company's usual payroll practices for executive officers.

(b) <u>Incentive Compensation</u>. The Executive shall be eligible to receive cash incentive compensation as determined by the Board or the Compensation Committee from time to time. The Executive's target annual incentive compensation shall be 45% percent of the Executive's Base Salary. The target annual incentive compensation in effect at any given time is referred to herein as "Target Bonus." The actual amount of the Executive's annual incentive compensation, if any, shall be determined in the sole discretion of the Board or the Compensation Committee (to the extent it has the authority to do so), subject to the terms of any applicable incentive compensation plan that may be in effect from time to time. Except as provided in Sections 5 and 6 with respect to severance benefits, to earn incentive compensation, the Executive must be employed by the Company on the day such incentive compensation is paid.

(c) <u>Sign-On Incentives</u>.

- (i) <u>Bonus</u>. The Executive shall be entitled to receive a sign-on bonus of \$50,000 ("Sign-On Bonus"), which shall be paid in the second pay period following the Executive's first date of employment with the Company ("Start Date") and is subject to all applicable taxes and withholdings. To earn the Sign-On Bonus, Executive must be employed by Company on the day the bonus is to be paid. If Executive resigns from the Company or is terminated for cause under Section 3(c) of this Agreement within six (6) months of the Start Date, Executive agrees to and shall repay the Sign-On Bonus to Company.
- practicable following the Start Date, Company will grant to Executive stock options (the "Option") for the purchase of an aggregate of 400,000 shares of common stock of the Company at a price per share equal to the closing sale price of the common stock on the NASDAQ Market on the date of grant. The Option shall be granted pursuant to and in accordance with the Company's 2020 Stock Option and Incentive Plan ("2020 Plan"), and shall be subject to all terms, vesting schedules and other provisions set forth in a separate option agreement. The Option will have a term of ten (10) years, except as otherwise set forth in the stock option agreement, and be subject to a vesting schedule of four (4) years, with 25% of the shares vesting on the first anniversary of the grant date and the remaining shares vesting equally each month over the following thirty-six (36) months. The Option will be, to the maximum extent permissible under applicable law, deemed "Incentive Stock Options" pursuant to Section 422 of the Internal Revenue Code Non-Qualified Stock Options with any remaining amount in the form of a non-qualified stock option under the 2020 Plan as an inducement grant consistent with the requirements of NASDAQ Stock Market Rule 5635(c)(4).
- (iii) Restricted Stock Units. Subject to the approval of the Compensation Committee in its discretion, as soon as reasonably practicable following the Start Date, Company will grant to Executive restricted stock units (the "RSUs") in the aggregate of 400,000 RSUs on the date of grant, with each RSU representing a contingent right to receive one share of common stock of the Company. The RSUs shall be granted pursuant to and in accordance with the 2020 Plan, and shall be subject to all terms, vesting schedules and other provisions set forth in a separate equity agreement. The RSUs are subject to service-based vesting conditions and vest in four (4) equal annual installments, with the first installment vesting one year after the grant date.

- (d) <u>Expenses</u>. The Executive shall be entitled to receive prompt reimbursement for all reasonable expenses incurred by the Executive during the Term in performing services hereunder, in accordance with the policies and procedures then in effect and established by the Company for its executive officers.
- (e) Other Benefits. The Executive shall be eligible to participate in or receive benefits under the Company's employee benefit plans in effect from time to time, subject to the terms of such plans.
- (f) <u>Paid Time Off.</u> The Executive shall be entitled to take paid time off in accordance with the Company's applicable paid time off policy for executives, as may be in effect from time to time.
- (g) <u>Equity</u>. The equity awards held by or awarded to the Executive, including those specified herein, shall be governed by the terms and conditions of the Company's applicable equity incentive plan(s) and the applicable award agreement(s) governing the terms of such equity awards held by the Executive (collectively, the "Equity Documents"); provided, however, and notwithstanding anything to the contrary in the Equity Documents, Section 6(a)(ii) of this Agreement shall apply in the event of a termination by the Company without Cause or by the Executive for Good Reason in either event within the Change in Control Period (as such terms are defined below).
- 3. <u>Termination</u>. The Executive's employment hereunder may be terminated without any breach of this Agreement under the following circumstances:
 - (a) <u>Death</u>. The Executive's employment hereunder shall terminate upon death.
- (b) <u>Disability.</u> The Company may terminate the Executive's employment if the Executive is disabled and unable to perform or expected to be unable to perform the essential functions of the Executive's then existing position or positions under this Agreement with or without reasonable accommodation for a period of 180 days (which need not be consecutive) in any 12-month period. If any question shall arise as to whether during any period the Executive is disabled so as to be unable to perform the essential functions of the Executive's then existing position or positions with or without reasonable accommodation, the Executive may, and at the request of the Company shall, submit to the Company a certification in reasonable detail by a physician selected by the Company to whom the Executive or the Executive's guardian has no reasonable objection as to whether the Executive is so disabled or how long such disability is expected to continue, and such certification shall for the purposes of this Agreement be conclusive of the issue. The Executive shall cooperate with any reasonable request of the physician in connection with such certification. If such question shall arise and the Executive shall fail to submit such certification, the Company's determination of such issue shall be binding on the Executive. Nothing in this Section 3(b) shall be construed to waive the Executive's rights, if any, under existing law including, without limitation, the Family and Medical Leave Act of 1993, 29 U.S.C. §2601 *et seq.* and the Americans with Disabilities Act, 42 U.S.C. §12101 *et seq.*

(0)	Termination by Company for Cause. The Company may terminate the Executive's employment hereunder for Cause. For
purposes of this Agreement,	" <u>Cause</u> " shall mean any of the following:
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Termination by Company for Cause. The Company may terminate the Executive's employment bereinder for Cause. For

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- (i) conduct by the Executive constituting a material act of misconduct in connection with the performance of the Executive's duties, including, without limitation, (A) willful failure or refusal to perform material responsibilities that have been requested by the CEO; (B) dishonesty to the CEO with respect to any material matter; or (C) misappropriation of funds or property of the Company or any of its subsidiaries or affiliates other than the occasional, customary and *de minimis* use of Company property for personal purposes;
- (ii) the commission by the Executive of acts satisfying the elements of (A) any felony or (B) a misdemeanor involving moral turpitude, deceit, dishonesty or fraud;
- (iii) any misconduct by the Executive, regardless of whether or not in the course of the Executive's employment, that would reasonably be expected to result in material injury or reputational harm to the Company or any of its subsidiaries or affiliates if the Executive were to continue to be employed in the same position;
- (iv) continued non-performance by the Executive of the Executive's duties hereunder (other than by reason of the Executive's physical or mental illness, incapacity or disability) which has continued for more than 30 days following written notice of such non-performance from the CEO;
- (v) a breach by the Executive of any of the provisions contained in Section 8 of this Agreement or the Restrictive Covenants Agreement (as defined below);
 - (vi) a material violation by the Executive of any of the Company's written employment policies; or
- (vii) the Executive's failure to cooperate with a bona fide internal investigation or an investigation by regulatory or law enforcement authorities, after being instructed by the Company to cooperate, or the willful destruction or failure to preserve documents or other materials known to be relevant to such investigation or the inducement of others to fail to cooperate or to produce documents or other materials in connection with such investigation.
- (d) <u>Termination by the Company without Cause</u>. The Company may terminate the Executive's employment hereunder at any time without Cause. Any termination by the Company of the Executive's employment under this Agreement which does not constitute a termination for Cause under Section 3(c) and does not result from the death or disability of the Executive under Section 3(a) or (b) shall be deemed a termination without Cause.

- (e) <u>Termination by the Executive</u>. The Executive may terminate employment hereunder at any time for any reason, including but not limited to, Good Reason. For purposes of this Agreement, "<u>Good Reason</u>" shall mean that the Executive has completed all steps of the Good Reason Process (hereinafter defined) following the occurrence of any of the following events without the Executive's consent (each, a "<u>Good Reason Condition</u>"):
 - (i) a material diminution in the Executive's responsibilities, authority or duties;
 - (ii) a material diminution in the Executive's Base Salary except for across-the-board salary reductions similarly affecting all or substantially all senior management employees of the Company;
 - (iii) a material change in the geographic location at which the Executive provides services to the Company, such that there is an increase of at least thirty (30) miles of driving distance to such location from the Executive's principal residence as of such change; or
 - (iv) a material breach of this Agreement by the Company.

The "Good Reason Process" consists of the following steps:

- (i) the Executive reasonably determines in good faith that a Good Reason Condition has occurred;
- (ii) the Executive notifies the Company in writing of the first occurrence of the Good Reason Condition within 60 days of the first occurrence of such condition;
- (iii) the Executive cooperates in good faith with the Company's efforts, for a period of not less than 30 days following such notice (the "<u>Cure Period</u>"), to remedy the Good Reason Condition;
 - (iv) notwithstanding such efforts, the Good Reason Condition continues to exist; and
 - (v) the Executive terminates employment within 60 days after the end of the Cure Period.

If the Company cures the Good Reason Condition during the Cure Period, Good Reason shall be deemed not to have occurred.

If the Executive's employment with the Company is terminated for any reason, the Company shall pay or provide to the Executive (or to the Executive's authorized representative or estate) (i) any Base Salary earned through the Date of Termination; (ii) unpaid expense reimbursements (subject to, and in accordance with, Section 2(c) of this Agreement); and (iii) any vested benefits the Executive may have under any employee benefit plan of the Company through the Date of Termination, which vested benefits shall be paid and/or provided in accordance with the terms of such employee benefit plans (collectively, the "Accrued Obligations").

4. <u>Notice and Date of Termination</u>.

- (a) <u>Notice of Termination</u>. Except for termination as specified in Section 3(a), any termination of the Executive's employment by the Company or any such termination by the Executive shall be communicated by written Notice of Termination to the other party hereto. For purposes of this Agreement, a "Notice of Termination" shall mean a notice which shall indicate the specific termination provision in this Agreement relied upon.
- (b) <u>Date of Termination</u>. "Date of Termination" shall mean: (i) if the Executive's employment is terminated by death, the date of death; (ii) if the Executive's employment is terminated on account of disability under Section 3(b) or by the Company for Cause under Section 3(c), the date on which Notice of Termination is given; (iii) if the Executive's employment is terminated by the Company without Cause under Section 3(d), the date on which a Notice of Termination is given or the date otherwise specified by the Company in the Notice of Termination; (iv) if the Executive's employment is terminated by the Executive under Section 3(e) other than for Good Reason, fourteen (14) days after the date on which a Notice of Termination is given, and (v) if the Executive's employment is terminated by the Executive under Section 3(e) for Good Reason, the date on which a Notice of Termination is given after the end of the Cure Period. Notwithstanding the foregoing, in the event that the Executive gives a Notice of Termination to the Company, the Company may unilaterally accelerate the Date of Termination and such acceleration shall not result in a termination by the Company for purposes of this Agreement.
- 5. Severance Pay and Benefits Upon Termination by the Company without Cause or by the Executive for Good Reason Outside the Change in Control Period. Outside of the Change in Control Period (as defined below): If the Executive's employment is terminated by the Company without Cause as provided in Section 3(d) or the Executive terminates employment for Good Reason as provided in Section 3(e), then, in addition to the Accrued Obligations, and subject to (i) the Executive signing a separation agreement and release in a form and manner satisfactory to the Company, which shall include, without limitation, a general release of claims against the Company and all related persons and entities, a reaffirmation of all of the Executive's Continuing Obligations (as defined below), and, and shall provide that if the Executive breaches any of the Continuing Obligations, all payments of the Severance Amount shall immediately cease (the "Separation Agreement and Release"), and (ii) the Separation Agreement and Release becoming irrevocable, all within 60 days after the Date of Termination (or such shorter period as set forth in the Separation Agreement and Release), which shall include a seven (7) business day revocation period:
- (a) the Company shall pay the Executive an amount equal to nine (9) months of Base Salary continuation (the "Severance Amount"); provided in the event the Executive is entitled to any payments pursuant to the Restrictive Covenants Agreement, the Severance Amount received in any calendar year will be reduced by the amount the Executive is paid in the same such calendar year pursuant to the Restrictive Covenants Agreement (the "Restrictive Covenants Agreement Setoff");
- (b) subject to the Executive's copayment of premium amounts at the applicable active employees' rate and the Executive's proper election to receive benefits under the Consolidated Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1985, as amended ("COBRA"), the Company shall pay to the group health plan provider, the COBRA provider or the Executive a monthly payment equal to the monthly employer contribution that the Company would have made to provide health insurance to the Executive if the Executive had remained employed by the Company until the earliest of (A) the end of the period during which the Severance Amount is paid; (B) the Executive's eligibility for group medical plan benefits under any other employer's group medical plan; or (C) the cessation of the Executive's continuation rights under COBRA; provided, however, if the Company determines that it cannot pay such amounts to the group health plan provider or the COBRA provider (if applicable) without potentially violating applicable law (including, without limitation, Section 2716 of the Public Health Service Act), then the Company shall convert such payments to payroll payments directly to the Executive for the time period specified above. Such payments shall be subject to tax-related deductions and withholdings and paid on the Company's regular payroll dates; and

(c) if the Date of Termination is in the first quarter of the calendar year, the Company shall pay the Executive any earned but as of yet unpaid annual bonus (as determined by the Board) from the prior calendar year's performance, which portion the Company shall pay on or around the same time the Company pays other bonuses for that year's performance.

The amounts payable under Section 5, to the extent taxable, shall be paid out in substantially equal installments as salary continuation in accordance with the Company's payroll practice, commencing within 60 days after the Date of Termination; provided, however, that if the 60-day period begins in one calendar year and ends in a second calendar year, the Severance Amount, to the extent it qualifies as "non-qualified deferred compensation" within the meaning of Section 409A of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended (the "Code"), shall begin to be paid in the second calendar year by the last day of such 60-day period; provided, further, that the initial payment shall include a catch-up payment to cover amounts retroactive to the day immediately following the Date of Termination. Each payment pursuant to this Agreement is intended to constitute a separate payment for purposes of Treasury Regulation Section 1.409A-2(b)(2).

- 6. <u>Severance Pay and Benefits Upon Termination by the Company without Cause or by the Executive for Good Reason within the Change in Control Period.</u> During the Change in Control Period (as defined below): The provisions of this Section 6 shall apply in lieu of, and expressly supersede, the provisions of Section 5 if (i) the Executive's employment is terminated either (a) by the Company without Cause as provided in Section 3(d), or (b) by the Executive for Good Reason as provided in Section 3, <u>and</u> (ii) the Date of Termination is within 12 months after the occurrence of the first event constituting a Change in Control (such period, the "Change in Control Period"). These provisions shall terminate and be of no further force or effect after a Change in Control Period.
- (a) If the Executive's employment is terminated by the Company without Cause as provided in Section 3(d) or the Executive terminates employment for Good Reason as provided in Section 3(e) and in each case the Date of Termination occurs during the Change in Control Period, then, in addition to the Accrued Obligations, and subject to the signing of the Separation Agreement and Release by the Executive and the Separation Agreement and Release but in no event more than 60 days after the Date of Termination:

- (i) the Company shall pay the Executive a lump sum in cash in an amount equal to (A) twelve (12) months of the Executive's Base Salary and Target Bonus plus (B) the Executive's Target Bonus for the year of the Date of Termination prorated for the amount of time employed in that year prior to the Date of Termination plus (C) if the if the Date of Termination is in the first quarter of the calendar year, the Company shall pay the Executive any earned but as of yet unpaid annual bonus (as determined by the Board) from the prior calendar year's performance ((A), (B), and (C) together, the "Change in Control Payment"); provided the Change in Control Payment shall be reduced by the amount of the Restrictive Covenants Agreement Setoff, if applicable; and
- (ii) notwithstanding anything to the contrary in any applicable option agreement or other stock-based award agreement, all time-based stock options and other stock-based awards subject to time-based vesting held by the Executive (the "Time-Based Equity Awards") shall immediately accelerate and become fully exercisable or nonforfeitable as of the later of (i) the Date of Termination or (ii) the effective date of the Separation Agreement and Release (the "Accelerated Vesting Date," and such acceleration, the "Acceleration"); *provided* that any termination or forfeiture of the unvested portion of such Time-Based Equity Awards that would otherwise occur on the Date of Termination in the absence of this Agreement will be delayed until the effective date of the Separation Agreement and Release and will only occur if the vesting pursuant to this subsection does not occur due to the absence of the Separation Agreement and Release becoming fully effective within the time period set forth therein. Notwithstanding the foregoing, no additional vesting of the Time-Based Equity Awards shall occur during the period between the Executive's Date of Termination and the Accelerated Vesting Date.
- (iii) subject to the Executive's copayment of premium amounts at the applicable active employees' rate and the Executive's proper election to receive benefits under COBRA, the Company shall pay to the group health plan provider, the COBRA provider or the Executive a monthly payment equal to the monthly employer contribution that the Company would have made to provide health insurance to the Executive if the Executive had remained employed by the Company until the earliest of (A) the 12-month anniversary of the Date of Termination; (B) the Executive's eligibility for group medical plan benefits under any other employer's group medical plan; or (C) the cessation of the Executive's continuation rights under COBRA; provided, however, if the Company determines that it cannot pay such amounts to the group health plan provider or the COBRA provider (if applicable) without potentially violating applicable law (including, without limitation, Section 2716 of the Public Health Service Act), then the Company shall convert such payments to payroll payments directly to the Executive for the time period specified above. Such payments shall be subject to tax-related deductions and withholdings and paid on the Company's regular payroll dates.

The amounts payable under this Section 6(a), to the extent taxable, shall be paid or commence to be paid within 60 days after the Date of Termination; provided, however, that if the 60-day period begins in one calendar year and ends in a second calendar year, such payments to the extent they qualify as "non-qualified deferred compensation" within the meaning of Section 409A of the Code, shall be paid or commence to be paid in the second calendar year by the last day of such 60-day period.

(b) Additional Limitation.

- (i) Anything in this Agreement to the contrary notwithstanding, in the event that the amount of any compensation, payment or distribution by the Company to or for the benefit of the Executive, whether paid or payable or distributed or distributable pursuant to the terms of this Agreement or otherwise, calculated in a manner consistent with Section 280G of the Code, and the applicable regulations thereunder (the "Aggregate Payments"), would be subject to the excise tax imposed by Section 4999 of the Code, then the Aggregate Payments shall be reduced (but not below zero) so that the sum of all of the Aggregate Payments shall be \$1.00 less than the amount at which the Executive becomes subject to the excise tax imposed by Section 4999 of the Code; provided that such reduction shall only occur if it would result in the Executive receiving a higher After Tax Amount (as defined below) than the Executive would receive if the Aggregate Payments were not subject to such reduction. In such event, the Aggregate Payments shall be reduced in the following order, in each case, in reverse chronological order beginning with the Aggregate Payments that are to be paid the furthest in time from consummation of the transaction that is subject to Section 280G of the Code: (1) cash payments not subject to Section 409A of the Code; (2) cash payments subject to Section 409A of the Code; (3) equity-based payments and acceleration; and (4) non-cash forms of benefits; provided that in the case of all the foregoing Aggregate Payments all amounts or payments that are not subject to calculation under Treas. Reg. §1.280G-1, Q&A-24(b) or (c) shall be reduced before any amounts that are subject to calculation under Treas. Reg. §1.280G-1, Q&A-24(b) or (c).
- (ii) For purposes of this Section 6(b), the "After Tax Amount" means the amount of the Aggregate Payments less all federal, state, and local income, excise and employment taxes imposed on the Executive as a result of the Executive's receipt of the Aggregate Payments. For purposes of determining the After Tax Amount, the Executive shall be deemed to pay federal income taxes at the highest marginal rate of federal income taxation applicable to individuals for the calendar year in which the determination is to be made, and state and local income taxes at the highest marginal rates of individual taxation in each applicable state and locality, net of the maximum reduction in federal income taxes which could be obtained from deduction of such state and local taxes.
- (iii) The determination as to whether a reduction in the Aggregate Payments shall be made pursuant to Section 6(b)(i) shall be made by a nationally recognized accounting firm selected by the Company (the "Accounting Firm"), which shall provide detailed supporting calculations both to the Company and the Executive within 15 business days of the Date of Termination, if applicable, or at such earlier time as is reasonably requested by the Company or the Executive. Any determination by the Accounting Firm shall be binding upon the Company and the Executive.
 - (c) <u>Definitions</u>. For purposes of this Section 6, the following terms shall have the following meanings:

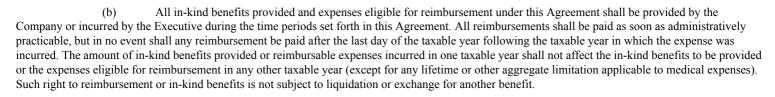
"Change in Control" shall mean any of the following:

- (i) any "person," as such term is used in Sections 13(d) and 14(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended (the "Act") (other than the Company, any of its subsidiaries, or any trustee, fiduciary or other person or entity holding securities under any employee benefit plan or trust of the Company or any of its subsidiaries), together with all "affiliates" and "associates" (as such terms are defined in Rule 12b-2 under the Act) of such person, shall become the "beneficial owner" (as such term is defined in Rule 13d-3 under the Act), directly or indirectly, of securities of the Company representing fifty (50) percent or more of the combined voting power of the Company's then outstanding securities having the right to vote in an election of the Board ("Voting Securities") (in such case other than as a result of an acquisition of securities directly from the Company); or
- (ii) the date a majority of the members of the Board is replaced during any 12-month period by directors whose appointment or election is not endorsed by a majority of the members of the Board before the date of the appointment or election; or
- (iii) the consummation of (A) any consolidation or merger of the Company where the stockholders 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 Act), directly or indirectly, shares representing in the aggregate more than fifty (50) percent of the voting shares of the Company issuing cash or securities in the consolidation or merger (or of its ultimate parent corporation, if any), or (B) any sale 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.

Notwithstanding the foregoing, a "Change in Control" shall not be deemed to have occurred for purposes of the foregoing clause (i) solely as the result of an acquisition of securities by the Company which, by reducing the number of shares of Voting Securities outstanding, increases the proportionate number of Voting Securities beneficially owned by any person to fifty (50) percent or more of the combined voting power of all of the then outstanding Voting Securities; provided, however, that if any person referred to in this sentence shall thereafter become the beneficial owner of any additional shares of Voting Securities (other than pursuant to a stock split, stock dividend, or similar transaction or as a result of an acquisition of securities directly from the Company) and immediately thereafter beneficially owns fifty (50) percent or more of the combined voting power of all of the then outstanding Voting Securities, then a "Change in Control" shall be deemed to have occurred for purposes of the foregoing clause (i).

7. Section 409A.

(a) Anything in this Agreement to the contrary notwithstanding, if at the time of the Executive's separation from service within the meaning of Section 409A of the Code, the Company determines that the Executive is a "specified employee" within the meaning of Section 409A(a)(2) (B)(i) of the Code, then to the extent any payment or benefit that the Executive becomes entitled to under this Agreement or otherwise on account of the Executive's separation from service would be considered deferred compensation otherwise subject to the 20 percent additional tax imposed pursuant to Section 409A(a) of the Code as a result of the application of Section 409A(a)(2)(B)(i) of the Code, such payment shall not be payable and such benefit shall not be provided until the date that is the earlier of (A) six months and one day after the Executive's separation from service, or (B) the Executive's death. If any such delayed cash payment is otherwise payable on an installment basis, the first payment shall include a catch-up payment covering amounts that would otherwise have been paid during the six-month period but for the application of this provision, and the balance of the installments shall be payable in accordance with their original schedule.



- (c) To the extent that any payment or benefit described in this Agreement constitutes "non-qualified deferred compensation" under Section 409A of the Code, and to the extent that such payment or benefit is payable upon the Executive's termination of employment, then such payments or benefits shall be payable only upon the Executive's "separation from service." The determination of whether and when a separation from service has occurred shall be made in accordance with the presumptions set forth in Treasury Regulation Section 1.409A-1(h).
- (d) The parties intend that this Agreement will be administered in accordance with Section 409A of the Code. To the extent that any provision of this Agreement is ambiguous as to its compliance with Section 409A of the Code, the provision shall be read in such a manner so that all payments hereunder comply with Section 409A of the Code. Each payment pursuant to this Agreement or the Restrictive Covenants Agreement is intended to constitute a separate payment for purposes of Treasury Regulation Section 1.409A-2(b)(2). The parties agree that this Agreement may be amended, as reasonably requested by either party, and as may be necessary to fully comply with Section 409A of the Code and all related rules and regulations in order to preserve the payments and benefits provided hereunder without additional cost to either party.
- (e) The Company makes no representation or warranty and shall have no liability to the Executive or any other person if any provisions of this Agreement are determined to constitute deferred compensation subject to Section 409A of the Code but do not satisfy an exemption from, or the conditions of, such Section.

8. <u>Continuing Obligations</u>.

(a) <u>Restrictive Covenants Agreement</u>. The terms of the Invention, Non-Competition and Non-Disclosure Agreement, dated December 9, 2024 (the "Restrictive Covenants Agreement"), between the Company and the Executive, attached hereto as <u>Exhibit A</u>, continue to be in full force and effect. For purposes of this Agreement, the obligations in this Section 8 and those that arise in the Restrictive Covenants Agreement and any other agreement relating to confidentiality, assignment of inventions, or other restrictive covenants shall collectively be referred to as the "Continuing Obligations."

- (b) Third-Party Agreements and Rights. The Executive hereby confirms that the Executive is not bound by the terms of any agreement with any previous employer or other party which restricts in any way the Executive's use or disclosure of information, other than confidentiality restrictions (if any), or the Executive's engagement in any business. The Executive represents to the Company that the Executive's execution of this Agreement, the Executive's employment with the Company and the performance of the Executive's proposed duties for the Company will not violate any obligations the Executive may have to any such previous employer or other party. In the Executive's work for the Company, the Executive will not disclose or make use of any information in violation of any agreements with or rights of any such previous employer or other party, and the Executive will not bring to the premises of the Company any copies or other tangible embodiments of non-public information belonging to or obtained from any such previous employment or other party.
- (c) <u>Litigation and Regulatory Cooperation</u>. During and after the Executive's employment, the Executive shall cooperate fully with the Company in (i) the defense or prosecution of any claims or actions now in existence or which may be brought in the future against or on behalf of the Company which relate to events or occurrences that transpired while the Executive was employed by the Company, and (ii) the investigation, whether internal or external, of any matters about which the Company believes the Executive may have knowledge or information. The Executive's full cooperation in connection with such claims, actions or investigations shall include, but not be limited to, being available to meet with counsel to answer questions or to prepare for discovery or trial and to act as a witness on behalf of the Company at mutually convenient times. During and after the Executive's employment, the Executive also shall cooperate fully with the Company in connection with any investigation or review of any federal, state or local regulatory authority as any such investigation or review relates to events or occurrences that transpired while the Executive was employed by the Company. The Company shall reimburse the Executive for any reasonable out-of-pocket expenses incurred in connection with the Executive's performance of obligations pursuant to this Section 8(c).
- (d) Relief. The Executive agrees that it would be difficult to measure any damages caused to the Company which might result from any breach by the Executive of the Continuing Obligations, and that in any event money damages would be an inadequate remedy for any such breach. Accordingly, the Executive agrees that if the Executive breaches, or proposes to breach, any portion of the Continuing Obligations, the Company shall be entitled, in addition to all other remedies that it may have, to an injunction or other appropriate equitable relief to restrain any such breach without showing or proving any actual damage to the Company.
- (e) Protected Disclosures and Other Protected Action. Nothing in this Agreement shall be interpreted or applied to prohibit the Executive from making any good faith report to any governmental agency or other governmental entity (a "Government Agency") concerning any act or omission that the Executive reasonably believes constitutes a possible violation of federal or state law or making other disclosures that are protected under the anti-retaliation or whistleblower provisions of applicable federal or state law or regulation. In addition, nothing contained in this Agreement limits the Executive's ability to communicate with any Government Agency or otherwise participate in any investigation or proceeding that may be conducted by any Government Agency, including the Executive's ability to provide documents or other information, without notice to the Company. In addition, for the avoidance of doubt, pursuant to the federal Defend Trade Secrets Act of 2016, the Executive shall not be held criminally or civilly liable under any federal or state trade secret law or under this Agreement or the Restrictive Covenants Agreement for the disclosure of a trade secret that (a) is made (i) in confidence to a federal, state, or local government official, either directly or indirectly, or to an attorney; and (ii) solely for the purpose of reporting or investigating a suspected violation of law; or (b) is made in a complaint or other document filed in a lawsuit or other proceeding, if such filing is made under seal.

- 9. <u>Consent to Jurisdiction</u>. The parties hereby consent to the jurisdiction of the state and federal courts of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. Accordingly, with respect to any such court action, the Executive (a) submits to the exclusive personal jurisdiction of such courts; (b) consents to service of process; and (c) waives any other requirement (whether imposed by statute, rule of court, or otherwise) with respect to personal jurisdiction or service of process.
- 10. Waiver of Jury Trial. Each of the Executive and the Company irrevocably and unconditionally WAIVES ALL RIGHT TO TRIAL BY JURY IN ANY PROCEEDING (WHETHER BASED ON CONTRACT, TORT OR OTHERWISE) ARISING OUT OF OR RELATING TO THIS AGREEMENT OR THE EXECUTIVE'S EMPLOYMENT BY THE COMPANY OR ANY AFFILIATE OF THE COMPANY, INCLUDING WITHOUT LIMITATION THE EXECUTIVE'S OR THE COMPANY'S PERFORMANCE UNDER, OR THE ENFORCEMENT OF, THIS AGREEMENT.
- 11. <u>Integration</u>. This Agreement constitutes the entire agreement between the parties with respect to the subject matter hereof and supersedes all prior agreements between the parties concerning such subject matter, provided that the Restrictive Covenants Agreement and the Equity Documents remain in full force and effect.
- 12. <u>Withholding, Tax Effect</u>. All payments made by the Company to the Executive under this Agreement shall be net of any tax or other amounts required to be withheld by the Company under applicable law. Nothing in this Agreement shall be construed to require the Company to make any payments to compensate the Executive for any adverse tax effect associated with any payments or benefits or for any deduction or withholding from any payment or benefit.
- Assignment. Neither the Executive nor the Company may make any assignment of this Agreement or any interest in it, by operation of law or otherwise, without the prior written consent of the other; provided, however, that the Company may assign its rights and obligations under this Agreement (including the Restrictive Covenants Agreement) without the Executive's consent to any affiliate or to any person or entity with whom the Company shall hereafter effect a reorganization, consolidate with, or merge into or to whom it transfers all or substantially all of its properties or assets; provided further that if the Executive remains employed or becomes employed by the Company, the purchaser or any of their affiliates in connection with any such transaction, then the Executive shall not be entitled to any payments, benefits or vesting pursuant to Section 5 or pursuant to Section 6 of this Agreement. This Agreement shall inure to the benefit of and be binding upon the Executive and the Company, and each of the Executive's and the Company's respective successors, executors, administrators, heirs and permitted assigns.

- 14. <u>Enforceability.</u> If any portion or provision of this Agreement (including, without limitation, any portion or provision of any section of this Agreement) shall to any extent be declared illegal or unenforceable by a court of competent jurisdiction, then the remainder of this Agreement, or the application of such portion or provision in circumstances other than those as to which it is so declared illegal or unenforceable, shall not be affected thereby, and each portion and provision of this Agreement shall be valid and enforceable to the fullest extent permitted by law.
- 15. <u>Survival</u>. The provisions of this Agreement shall survive the termination of this Agreement and/or the termination of the Executive's employment to the extent necessary to effectuate the terms contained herein.
- 16. <u>Waiver</u>. No waiver of any provision hereof shall be effective unless made in writing and signed by the waiving party. The failure of any party to require the performance of any term or obligation of this Agreement, or the waiver by any party of any breach of this Agreement, shall not prevent any subsequent enforcement of such term or obligation or be deemed a waiver of any subsequent breach.
- 17. <u>Notices</u>. Any notices, requests, demands and other communications provided for by this Agreement shall be sufficient if in writing and delivered in person or sent by a nationally recognized overnight courier service or by registered or certified mail, postage prepaid, return receipt requested, to the Executive at the last address the Executive has filed in writing with the Company or, in the case of the Company, at its main offices, attention of the Board.
- 18. <u>Amendment</u>. This Agreement may be amended or modified only by a written instrument signed by the Executive and by a duly authorized representative of the Company.
- 19. Effect on Other Plans and Agreements. An election by the Executive to resign for Good Reason under the provisions of this Agreement shall not be deemed a voluntary termination of employment by the Executive for the purpose of interpreting the provisions of any of the Company's benefit plans, programs or policies. Nothing in this Agreement shall be construed to limit the rights of the Executive under the Company's benefit plans, programs or policies except as otherwise provided in Section 8 hereof, and except that the Executive shall have no rights to any severance benefits under any Company severance pay plan, offer letter or otherwise. Except for the Restrictive Covenants Agreement, in the event that the Executive is party to an agreement with the Company providing for payments or benefits under such plan or agreement and under this Agreement, the terms of this Agreement shall govern and the Executive may receive payment under this Agreement only and not both. Further, Section 5 and Section 6 of this Agreement are mutually exclusive and in no event shall the Executive be entitled to payments or benefits pursuant to both Section 5 and Section 6 of this Agreement.
- 20. <u>Governing Law.</u> This is a Massachusetts contract and shall be construed under and be governed in all respects by the laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, without giving effect to the conflict of laws principles thereof. With respect to any disputes concerning federal law, such disputes shall be determined in accordance with the law as it would be interpreted and applied by the United States Court of Appeals for the First Circuit.

21. <u>Counterparts</u> . This Agreement may be executed in any number of counterparts, each of which when so executed and delivered shall be taken to be an original; but such counterparts shall together constitute one and the same document.		
IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the parties have executed this Agreement effective on the Effective Date.		
	COMPASS THERAPEUTICS, INC.	
	By:/s/ Thomas Schutz Its: Chief Executive Officer	
	EXECUTIVE	
	/s/ Barry Shin	
	Barry Shin	
	15	

Exhibit A

Restrictive Covenants Agreement (i.e., Invention, Non-Competition and Non-Disclosure Agreement)

Compass Therapeutics Appoints Biopharmaceutical Industry Leader Barry Shin as Chief Financial Officer

BOSTON, Dec. 10, 2024 (GLOBE NEWSWIRE) -- Compass Therapeutics, Inc. (Nasdaq: CMPX), a clinical-stage, oncology-focused biopharmaceutical company developing proprietary antibody-based therapeutics to treat multiple human diseases, today announced the appointment of Barry Shin as Chief Financial Officer, as of December 9, 2024. Mr. Shin is a veteran biopharmaceutical leader with over 20 years of experience as a finance and operations executive, investment banker, and corporate advisor.

"We are delighted to welcome Barry to Compass during this pivotal and exciting time for the company," said Thomas Schuetz, MD, PhD, CEO of Compass and Vice Chairman of the Board of Directors. "We have several key catalysts in 2025, including our topline data readout for CTX-009 in the first quarter, and Barry's deep expertise in financial and strategic planning, capital markets, and M&A will be invaluable as we advance CTX-009 and our broader portfolio of clinical and pre-clinical assets. We are confident Barry will complement our team well and help us deliver value to our shareholders over the coming years."

"I am excited to join Compass at this critical juncture for the company," said Mr. Shin. "The data generated by CTX-009 and throughout the broader pipeline is incredibly encouraging and I am thrilled to be a part of the team working to bring important new therapeutic options to patients in need. I look forward to leveraging my financial experience and expertise to help guide the strategy and operations at Compass as it continues to grow and evolve."

Mr. Shin joins Compass with over two decades of experience in the biopharmaceutical sector as a public company executive, an investment banker, and a corporate attorney. Most recently, he served as Executive Vice President, Chief Operating Officer & Chief Financial Officer at Trevena, Inc., a company that developed and commercialized novel medicines for patients with central nervous system conditions. Previously, Mr. Shin was a Managing Director in the Healthcare Investment Banking Groups at both Mizuho Securities and Guggenheim Securities. He also served in positions of increasing responsibility within the Healthcare Investment Banking Group of Piper Sandler after beginning his career advising healthcare and technology companies in financing and M&A transactions as a corporate attorney. Mr. Shin received a B.Sc. and joint JD/MBA from the University of Toronto.

About Compass Therapeutics

Compass Therapeutics, Inc. is a clinical-stage oncology-focused biopharmaceutical company developing proprietary antibody-based therapeutics to treat multiple human diseases. Compass's scientific focus is on the relationship between angiogenesis, the immune system, and tumor growth. The company pipeline of novel product candidates is designed to target multiple critical biological pathways required for an effective anti-tumor response. These include modulation of the microvasculature via angiogenesis-targeted agents, induction of a potent immune response via activators on effector cells in the tumor microenvironment, and alleviation of immunosuppressive mechanisms used by tumors to evade immune surveillance. Compass plans to advance its product candidates through clinical development as both standalone therapies and in combination with proprietary pipeline antibodies based on supportive clinical and nonclinical data. The company was founded in 2014 and is headquartered in Boston, Massachusetts. For more information, visit the Compass Therapeutics website at https://www.compasstherapeutics.com.

Forward-Looking Statements

This press release contains forward-looking statements. Statements in this press release that are not purely historical are forwardlooking statements. Such forward-looking statements include, among other things, references to Compass's financial position to continue advancing its product candidates, expectations about cash runway, business and development plans, and statements regarding Compass's product candidates, including their development and clinical trial milestones such as the expected trial design, timing of enrollment, patient dosing and data readouts, regulatory plans with respect to Compass's product candidates and the therapeutic potential thereof. Actual results could differ from those projected in any forward-looking statements due to numerous factors. Such factors include, among others, Compass's ability to raise the additional funding it will need to continue to pursue its business and product development plans, the inherent uncertainties associated with developing product candidates and operating as a development stage company, Compass's ability to identify additional product candidates for development, Compass's ability to develop, complete clinical trials for, obtain approvals for and commercialize any of its product candidates, competition in the industry in which Compass operates and market conditions. These forward-looking statements are made as of the date of this press release, and Compass assumes no obligation to update the forward-looking statements, or to update the reasons why actual results could differ from those projected in the forward-looking statements, except as required by law. Investors should consult all of the information set forth herein and should also refer to the risk factor disclosure set forth in the reports and other documents Compass files with the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) available at www.sec.gov, including without limitation Compass's latest Annual Report on Form 10-K, Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q and subsequent filings with the SEC.

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