**APRIL 2022** 

# Macellum CAPITAL MANAGEMENT

# KeepKOHL'S Accountable

**REBUTTAL DECK:** 

 CHERRY-PICKING TIME PERIODS, PEER GROUPS & METRICS DOESN'T CHANGE THE FACTS

✓ FOCUS ON THE FACTS — NOT 'HYPOTHETICAL' ADJUSTMENTS

**VOTE THE WHITE PROXY CARD** 

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# KOHL'S FACES SIGNIFICANT RISK IF MACELLUM'S NOMINEES ARE NOT ELECTED

### Kohl's' Investor Presentation includes misleading adjustments, cherry-picked timeframes and new peer groups

- Kohl's creates a hypothetical undisturbed share price ("HUSP") of \$56.08 by adjusting its stock price 20% higher from a price before takeover announcements, while neglecting many critical facts pertaining to its retail peers<sup>1</sup> and the industry over the adjustment period
- Kohl's' claim of 76% five-year TSR cherry-picks dates and peer groups
- Kohl's touts EPS growth while ignoring the significant declines in EBITDA, EBIT and EBT relative to its retail peers
- We contend the Company's stock will drop to \$47 or lower if Kohl's does not announce a strategic transaction and investors are forced to rely on a recycled three-year strategy that does not appear to create value
  - Kohl's' strategic plan calls for a drop in EBIT and less than 4% compounded EPS growth from FY 2021
  - Kohl's traded at \$46.84 pre-takeover bids and experienced a 13% stock price decline following Kohl's' investor day on March 7, 2022, which unveiled its go-forward strategic plan in great detail
- Kohl's disingenuously shows a finance committee tasked with overseeing the strategic process, consisting of four people leaving out 30+ year tenured director Frank Sica, who isn't standing for reelection but was previously disclosed as serving on the committee. Macellum's prior nominee only represents 1 of 4 committee members, but previously was 1 of 5 members.

### THE COMPANY'S REFUSAL TO REVEAL RESULTS OF THE SALE PROCESS BEFORE THE ANNUAL MEETING RESULTS IN SIGNIFICANT RISK TO SHAREHOLDERS. WE CONTEND KOHL'S' STANDALONE PLAN WILL RETURN TO PRE-TAKEOVER STOCK PRICES (OR LOWER) IF KOHL'S DOES NOT ANNOUNCE A STRATEGIC TRANSACTION OR IF SHAREHOLDERS DO NOT ELECT A REFRESHED BOARD THAT CAN MAXIMIZE VALUE.

# KOHL'S' CLAIM OF A \$56.08 HYPOTHETICAL UNDISTURBED SHARE PRICE IS MISLEADING

### Put simply, the Company's adjustment to its pre-takeover bid stock price ignores the facts

The Kohl's Board adjusts the stock 20% higher from the pre-takeover price (\$46.84) based on the performance of Dillard's, Macy's and Nordstrom

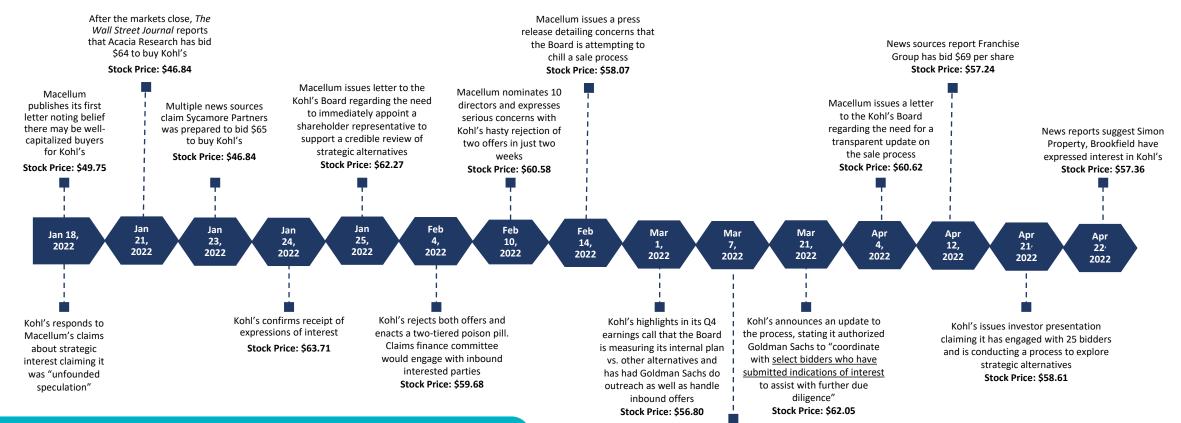
### Kohl's overlooks four very important facts, in our view:

- 1. Dillard's, Macy's and Nordstrom were up an average of 15.3% the day of the reported Kohl's takeover bids
  - We believe the market was expressing a belief that other private equity firms could also express an interest in these three retailers
- 2. Nordstrom provided positive guidance on March 1<sup>st</sup> and the stock surged <u>38% higher</u>
- 3. <u>Kohl's' stock fell 13%</u> when it released its three-year plan on March 7, 2022
- 4. The most widely used yard stick for a retailers' performance, the <u>S&P Retail Index (XRT), declined 1.5% over the</u> <u>same "adjustment" timeframe</u>
  - Adjusting for the change in the XRT, a more relevant guide to the market's sentiment regarding the retail sector, would result in a "HUSP" of \$46.11 – not \$56.08

### WITHOUT MEANINGFUL BOARD CHANGE OR AN ANNOUNCED SALE OF KOHL'S, WE SEE GREAT RISK TO KOHL'S' STOCK PRICE.

# WITHOUT THE PRESSURE OF MACELLUM, WOULD KOHL'S HAVE EVEN EXPLORED STRATEGIC BIDS?

### We contend without the election of Macellum's nominees, there is significant risk to the sale process



Why did reported bids occur from The Franchise Group and Simon Property/Brookfield in April 2022 if Company was truly running a robust process starting in January?

Kohl's holds Investor Day detailing standalone plan <u>but does not detail</u> <u>any strategic review process</u>. Postmarket close: Kohl's files proxy statement claiming Goldman Sachs has engaged with over 20 parties **Stock drops 13% to close at \$51.15** 

# KOHL'S' POSITIVE TSR CLAIM CHERRY-PICKS DATES AND PEER GROUPS

In addition to neglecting obvious facts when creating a fictional "HUSP" for the ending price, Kohl's chooses to show the only timeframe, among many, that it might have outperformed. Further, the Company cherry picked a 5 year TSR end date of April 11, 2022

While we prefer to show both mean and median, Kohl's only displays the median. The mean for all time periods is substantially worse

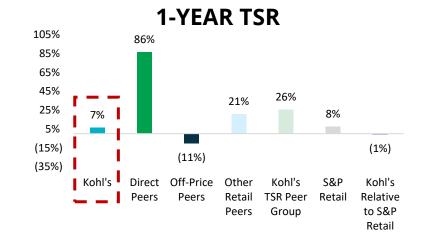
- Using the average for the Five-Year TSR:
  - The Direct Peer Group would be up 146%<sup>1</sup>
  - The Off-Price Peer Group would have a TSR of 85%<sup>1</sup>
  - The Other Retail Peer Group would have a TSR of 48%<sup>1</sup>
  - The total TSR Peer Group would have a TSR of 67%<sup>1</sup>
- When using the unaffected stock price, before Kohl's acknowledged takeover bids on Jan. 21, 2022, the underperformance across all peer groups and timeframes is startling
- Kohl's also neglects any comparison the S&P Retail Index (the "XRT") while finding it perfectly acceptable to compare Macellum's investments to the XRT

### WE ARE LEFT WONDERING: WHAT IS THE POINT OF HAVING A TSR PEER GROUP IN ITS OWN PROXY ONLY TO IGNORE IT WHEN MEASURING PERFORMANCE AT THIS CRITICAL JUNCTURE?

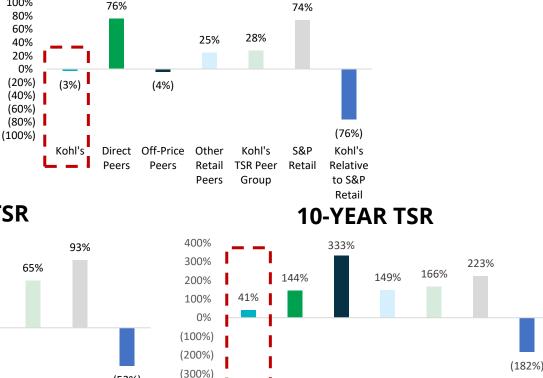
# KOHL'S' ACTUAL UNDERPERFORMANCE ACROSS A MULTITUDE OF TIMEFRAMES AND PEER GROUPS

Our more appropriate timeframe (ending with 01/21/2022), excluding "hypothetical" adjustments, highlights how Kohl's underperformed across multiple time periods

100%



### SINCE PRE-COVID (12/31/2019) TSR



Direct

Peers

Off-Price

Peers

Other

Retail

Peers

Kohl's

**TSR** Peer

Group

S&P

Retail

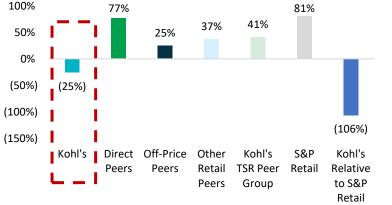
Kohl's

Relative

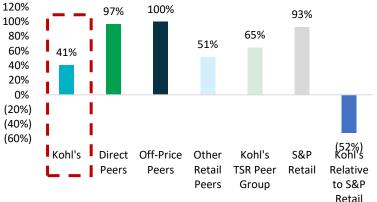
to S&P

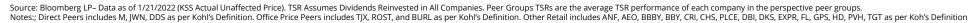
Retail











## KOHL'S NOW USES DILLARD'S AS A DIRECT PEER, BUT DOES NOT INCLUDE IT IN ITS COMPENSATION OR PERFORMANCE PEER GROUPS IN ITS PROXY

### Macellum has always included Dillard's as a peer

We are confused as to why Kohl's has only recently decided that Dillard's is a direct peer when it is neither in its compensation peer group or performance peer group, especially since Kohl's states its performance peer group consists of its "closest competitors"

Could it be that adding Dillard's to "Direct Peers" helps Kohl's' argument?

### Kohl's Compensation Peer Group

Compensation Peer Group To establish the Compensation Peer Group, the Committee considers many criteria, including Whether each comparator company is in the same or a similar segment of the retail industry as Kohl's Whether each comparator company is similar to Kohl's in terms of size—including revenues, total assets, and market capitalization The complexity and scope of each comparator company's business The similarity of each comparator company's business model to Kohl's business model Whether each comparator company competes with Kohl's for profits and talent; and Other characteristics unique to Kohl's or the retail industry, which could include things like growth trajectory and business strategies In August 2021, the Committee determined that this year's compensation analysis would be based upon an expanded Compensation Peer Group, incorporating several new additions: 20 Trading Dav Market Capitalization Revenue (\$ Billions) (\$ Billions)\* 50.3 Best Buy Co., Inc.\*\* 27.8 The TJX Companies Inc 37.8 80.8 23.1 25.7 Dollar Tree Inc \* Macy's, Inc. 5.8 19.8 Gap. Inc. 12.2 15.7 Ross Stores, Inc. 43.8 15.2 Nordstrom, Inc. 5.6 11.6 Dick's Sporting Goods, Inc.\*\* 8.8 11.2 Bed, Bath & Beyond, Inc 3.1 9.9 Foot Locker, Inc.\*\* 63 8.5 7.1 Burlington Stores, Inc.<sup>1</sup> 214 6.9 Ulta Beauty, Inc.\*\* 187

Kohl's Performance Peer Group

"The Performance Peer Group historically consisted of our closest competitors"

#### Performance Peer Group

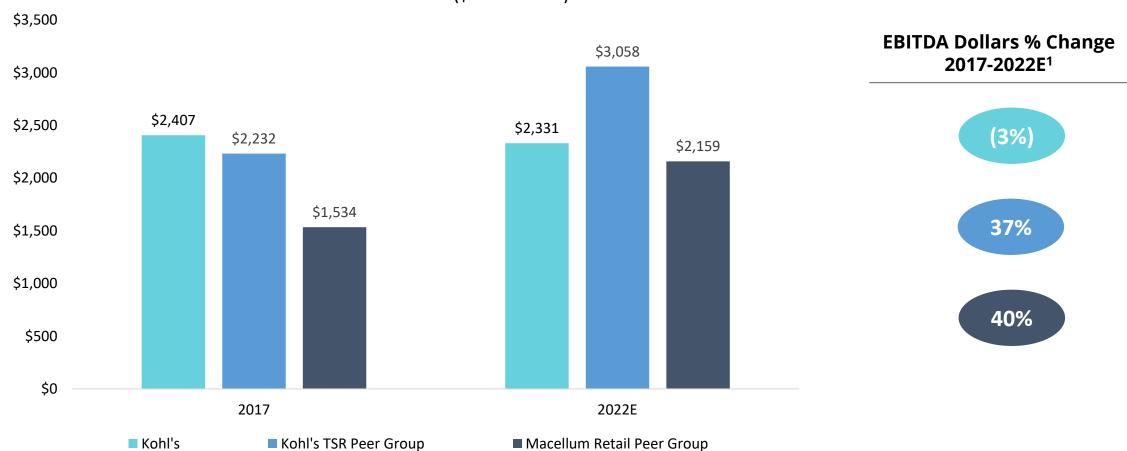
We've historically measured our performance against a more targeted set of peers for purposes of potentially earning threshold payments under our Annual Incesting threshold vesting of certain performance-based equity awards. The Performance Peer Group historically consisted of our closest competitors—the 6-7 retailers with the most similar products and customer base. The recent bankruptcy of J.C Penney Company, Inc. – yet another direct competitor of the Company that failed in recent years – necessitated changing the Peer Performance Group. In March 2021, in consultation with Steven Hall & Partners, which was then serving as the Committee's independent compensation consultant, the Committee adjusted the Performance Peer Group to reflect a broader set of peers that compete with the Company in certain product segments. Collectively, in addition to removing J.C. Penney Company, Inc., the Committee added four new retail companies to expand the peer group to nine companies:

	Customer Segment	Product Segment
Macy's, Inc.	Mid-Tier	Multiline
Gap, Inc.	Mid-Tier	Apparel
Bed, Bath & Beyond, Inc.*	Mid-Tier	Home
Dick's Sporting Goods, Inc.*	Mid-Tier	Active/Shoes
L Brands, Inc.*	Mid-Tier	Apparel
Nordstrom, Inc.	High-End	Multiline
Ross Stores, Inc.	Off-Price	Apparel
The TJX Companies, Inc.	Off-Price	Multiline
Foot Locker, Inc.*	Mid-Tier	Active/Shoes

Source: Company 2022 Proxy Statement, Bloomberg LP.

# KOHL'S' EBITDA GROWTH HAS MATERIALLY LAGGED PEERS

Kohl's misleadingly displays its average five-year EBITDA margin of 11.9%, however, the Company neglects to point out that peers have grown EBITDA dollars significantly while Kohl's' EBITDA has declined



EBITDA 2017 vs. 2022E<sup>1</sup> (\$ in millions)

Source: Bloomberg LP- Data as of 4/22/2022

1: 2022 EBITDA are Bloomberg 2022 Consensus Estimates as of 04/22/2022.

Notes:; Kohl's TSR Peer Group includes DDS, JWN, M, BRUL, TJX, ROST, ANF, AEO, BBBY, BBY, CRI, CHS, PLCE, DBI, DKS, EXPR, FL, GPS, HD, PVH, TGT as per Koh's Definition. Macellum Retail Peer Group includes : AEO, BKE, BURL, CTRN, DDS, DKS, GPS, HIBB, JWN, M, PLCE, ROST, TGT, TJX, URBN, WSM.

## KOHL'S TOUTS OUTPERFORMANCE VS. CONSENSUS DURING 2021 AS THE ECONOMY REOPENED

Kohl's significantly underperformed retail peers' EBIT and revenue growth from FY 2019 to FY 2021

The Company continuously took credit for beating the consensus as the economy reopened, when in reality, Kohl's was not able to accurately judge the impact of the stimulus and newly reopened economy

### **EBIT Growth 2021 vs. 2019**

	Growth	
	FY 19 vs. FY 21	
Macellum Retail Peer Average	149%	
Macellum Retail Peer Median	97%	
KSS	39%	

### Revenue Growth 2021 vs. 2019

	Growth	
	FY 19 vs. FY 21	
Macellum Retail Peer Average	19%	
Macellum Retail Peer Median	16%	
KSS	(2%)	

# KOHL'S NEGLECTS TO SHOW ANY RELATIVE PERFORMANCE THAT WOULD DEMONSTRATE ITS DISAPPOINTING PERFORMANCE.

# KOHL'S' TSR PEER GROUP USES MANY COMPANIES THAT ARE NOT APPROPRIATE

# Kohl's' TSR peer group includes other retailers that Macellum does not believe are the most relevant:

- Abercrombie & Fitch Co. (ANF) 30% of its sales are international
- Carter's Inc (CRI) 33% of its sales are wholesale and 12% are international
- Designer Brands Inc. (DBI) a footwear retailer with only 10% of Kohl's' sales
- Foot Locker (FL) derives a majority of its sales from shoes, which are only 10% of Kohl's' sales. Foot Locker also just announced the loss of a significant portion of sales from Nike, driving the stock down 30%
- Home Depot (HD) has no relevance to Kohl's
- PVH Corp. (PVH) is a manufacturer of apparel not a retailer and has material international exposure

### Macellum has selected a much more comparable peer group that excludes the above and includes:

- The Buckle Inc. (BKE) an apparel retailer with exposure to the casual lifestyle, catering to a younger customer
- Citi Trends (CTRN) a retailer with 600 stores that caters to a significant portion of Kohl's' customer base: the African American community
- Hibbett Inc. (HIBB) an off-mall Athleisure apparel and footwear company
- Urban Outfitters (URBN) an on- and off-mall apparel and accessories retailer catering to a casual lifestyle
- Williams-Sonoma (WSM) a retailer catering to the home good segment, which comprises ~18% of Kohl's' sales

# KOHL'S TOUTS ITS EPS GROWTH WHILE NEGLECTING ITS OPERATING DETERIORATION

# Kohl's touts its three-year plan while using fiscal 2022 as the starting point and overlooks the EBIT declines from fiscal 2021

- Kohl's' financial framework misleadingly touts EPS growth of mid-to-high single digits
- Only in a fine print footnote does Kohl's clarify that the framework starts in 2022
- Neglects to point out that 2022 guidance projects EPS and EBIT declines from 2021
- Kohl's' EPS CAGR from 2021 paints a more negative and accurate picture of less than 4% EPS CAGR
- All of which is derived from share repurchases while spending \$2.5 billion in capital expenditures
- Further, we believe this three-year plan has meaningful risk, which is apparent when looking at consensus estimates for 2024 of \$7.80 vs. Kohl's' mid-point of \$8.22

### Kohl's also touts its historical EPS growth from 2017 to 2022 guidance

• Again, most of which is driven by share repurchases while EBITDA is expected to be down mid-single-digits

# Macellum believes changes in EBITDA more accurately portray the operating performance which the Board should be judged by

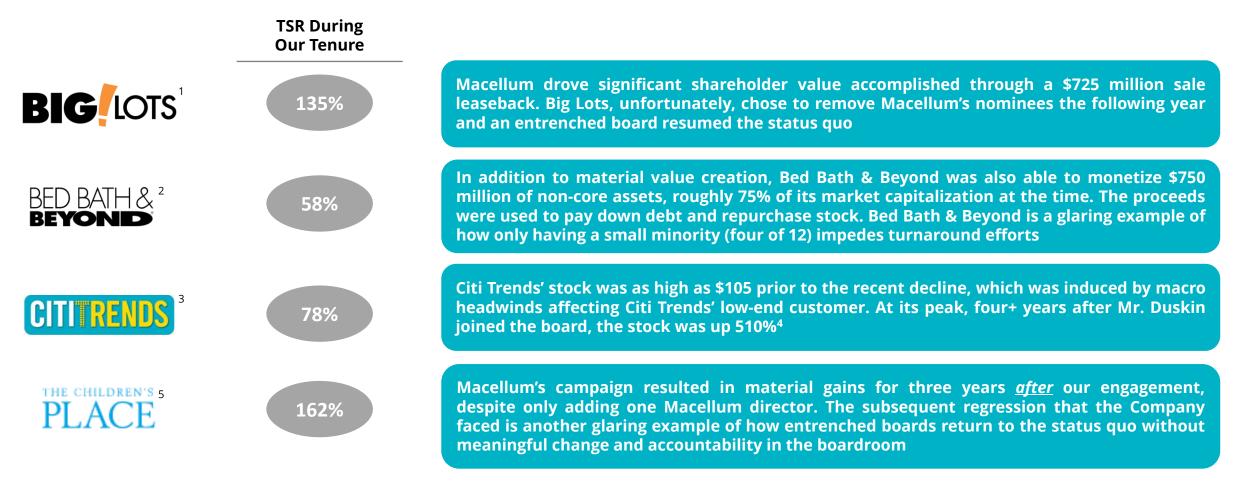
Further, there is no reasonable scenario, from Macellum's perspective, that would result in multiple expansion used to derive further price targets with 4% compounded EPS growth. Even if Kohl's hit the midpoint of guidance at \$8.22, which has significant risk, the stock would be worth \$65 in three years

# KOHL'S APPEARS TO LACK UNDERSTANDING OF A SALE LEASEBACK TRANSACTION

- In Kohl's' sale leaseback assessment, the Board fails to understand a basic premise: a sale leaseback does NOT create debt which must be paid back, nor does it materially impair valuation
- It should be noted that all of the reported buyers intend on monetizing the owned real estate to create value. Our nominees are committed to analyzing a potential sale leaseback transaction to understand the disconnect between what Kohl's' Board believes and what potential buyers see
  - In fact, at least two of the reported buyers, Hudson's Bay and the consortium of Simon Properties and Brookfield, have extensive knowledge of the value of real estate assets
- We disagree with Kohl's' analysis of the effective capitalization rate. We believe that once the proceeds are used to reduce shares that pay an after-tax cash dividend of \$2.00, the net effective, after-tax cash capitalization rate is 3.4%, a very low rate when compared to the U.S. treasury 10-year yield of almost 3%
- While we disagree with including leases as part of debt for valuation purposes, even when the calculation is done that way, Kohl's' debt + capitalized leases to EBITDAR falls well within peer group levels<sup>1</sup>
- Almost none of the retail peer group owns a significant amount of real estate yet Kohl's is accorded the lowest valuation among them with no value ascribed to these stranded assets<sup>1</sup>

# KOHL'S MISREPRESENTED MACELLUM'S PERFORMANCE

### Macellum's campaigns have created significant value for shareholders.



Source: Bloomberg LP- Data as of 1/21/2022 (KSS Actual Unaffected Price). TSR Assumes Dividends Reinvested in All Companies.

1: TSR Data from Bloomberg LP- 1: Total shareholder return reflects the period from 4/23/20 to 10/01/20, when Macellum shareholder representative was forced to leave the board under the terms of the settlement agreement

2: TSR Data from Bloomberg LP- 1: Total shareholder return reflects the period from 5/29/19 to 4/11/22

3: TSR Data from Bloomberg LP- 1: Total shareholder return reflects the period from 5/24/17 to 4/11/22

4: TSR Data from Bloomberg LP- 1: Total shareholder return reflects the period from 5/24/17 to 4/23/21 5: TSR Data from Bloomberg LP- 1: Total shareholder return reflects the period from 3/06/15 to 3/06/18