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 1934

Date of Report (Date of earliest event reported): **November 2, 2017**

MFA FINANCIAL, INC.
(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

Maryland	**1-13991**	**13-3974868**
(State or other jurisdiction of incorporation or organization)	(Commission File Number)	(IRS Employer Identification No.)

350 Park Avenue, 20th Floor **New York, New York**	**10022**
(Address of principal executive offices)	(Zip Code)

Registrant's telephone number, including area code: **(212) 207-6400**

Not Applicable
(Former name or former address, if changed since last report)

Check the appropriate box below if the Form 8-K filing is intended to simultaneously satisfy the filing obligation of the registrant under any of the following provisions (see General Instruction A.2. below):

o Written communications pursuant to Rule 425 under the Securities Act (17 CFR 230.425)

o Soliciting material pursuant to Rule 14a-12 under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.14a-12)

o Pre-commencement communications pursuant to Rule 14d-2(b) under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.14d-2(b))

o Pre-commencement communications pursuant to Rule 13e-4(c) under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.13e-4(c))

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant is an emerging growth company as defined in Rule 405 of the Securities Act of 1933 (§230.405 of this chapter) or Rule 12b-2 of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (§240.12b-2 of this chapter).

Emerging growth company o

If an emerging growth company, indicate by check mark if the registrant has elected not to use the extended transition period for complying with any new or revised financial accounting standards provided pursuant to Section 13(a) of the Exchange Act. o

---

Item 2.02 Results of Operations and Financial Condition and
Item 7.01 Regulation FD Disclosure

MFA Financial, Inc. ("MFA") issued a press release, dated November 2, 2017, announcing its financial results for the quarter ended September 30, 2017, which is attached hereto as Exhibit 99.1 and is incorporated herein by reference. In addition, in conjunction with the announcement of its financial results, MFA issued additional information relating to its 2017 third quarter financial results. Such additional information is attached to this report as Exhibit 99.2 and is incorporated herein by reference.

The information referenced in this Current Report on Form 8-K (including Exhibits 99.1 and 99.2) is being "furnished" and, as such, shall not be deemed to be "filed" for the 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. The information set forth in this Current Report on Form 8-K (including Exhibits 99.1 and 99.2) is and will not be incorporated by reference into any registration statement or other document filed by MFA pursuant to the Securities Act of 1933, as amended (the "Securities Act"), except as may be expressly set forth by specific reference in such filing.

As discussed therein, the press release contains forward-looking statements within the meaning of the Securities Act and the Exchange Act and, as such, may involve known and unknown risks, uncertainties and assumptions. These forward-looking statements relate to MFA's current expectations and are subject to the limitations and qualifications set forth in the press release as well as in MFA's other documents filed with the SEC, including, without limitation, that actual events and/or results may differ materially from those projected in such forward-looking statements.

Exhibit

99.1 Press Release, dated November 2, 2017, announcing MFA's financial results for the quarter ended September 30, 2017.

99.2	Additional information relating to the financial results of MFA for the quarter ended September 30, 2017.

EXHIBIT INDEX

Exhibit No.	Description
99.1	Press Release, dated November 2, 2017, announcing MFA Financial Inc.'s financial results for the quarter ended September 30, 2017.
99.2	Additional information relating to the financial results of MFA Financial, Inc. for the quarter ended September 30, 2017.

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.

MFA FINANCIAL, INC.
(REGISTRANT)

By: /s/ Harold E. Schwartz
Name: Harold E. Schwartz
Title: Senior Vice President and
General Counsel

Date: November 2, 2017

Exhibit 99.1

MFA
FINANCIAL, INC.

350 Park Avenue
New York, New York 10022

PRESS RELEASE **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

November 2, 2017 **NEW YORK METRO**

INVESTOR CONTACT: **InvestorRelations@mfafinancial.com** **NYSE: MFA**
212-207-6488
www.mfafinancial.com

MEDIA CONTACT: **Abernathy MacGregor**
Tom Johnson
212-371-5999

MFA Financial, Inc.
Announces Third Quarter 2017 Financial Results

NEW YORK - MFA Financial, Inc. (NYSE:MFA) today announced its financial results for the third quarter ended September 30, 2017.

Third Quarter 2017 and other highlights:

- MFA generated third quarter net income available to common shareholders of $60.1 million, or $0.15 per common share (based on 396.7 million weighted average common shares outstanding). As of September 30, 2017, book value per common share was $7.70.

- Earnings for the third quarter were negatively impacted principally by lower prices on CRT securities, primarily reflecting market concerns related to seasonal hurricanes, and by one-time contractual obligations of the Company related to the death of our former CEO, who passed away in August.

- On October 31, 2017, MFA paid its third quarter 2017 dividend of $0.20 per share of common stock to shareholders of record as of September 28, 2017.

- MFA purchased or committed to purchase nearly $600 million of residential mortgage assets in the third quarter, including $202 million of credit sensitive whole loans and REO.

Craig Knutson, MFA's President and CEO, said, "In the third quarter, we continued to execute our strategy of targeted investment within the residential mortgage universe with a focus on credit sensitive assets. We made acquisitions in each of our credit sensitive investment asset classes during the quarter. Further, we opportunistically sold $44.5 million of Non-Agency MBS issued prior to 2008 ("Legacy Non-Agency MBS"), realizing gains of $14.9 million for the quarter. As we have for over five years now, we continue to manage this portfolio through selective and strategic sales of positions.

"MFA remains well-positioned to generate attractive returns despite historically low interest rates. Through asset selection and hedging strategy, the estimated net effective duration, a gauge of MFA's interest rate sensitivity, remains low and measured 0.76 at quarter-end. MFA's book value per common share decreased modestly during the quarter from $7.76 to $7.70, but year-to-date has increased approximately 1% as our investment strategy continues to produce stable book value. Leverage, which reflects the ratio of our financing obligations to equity, was 2.4:1 at quarter-end."

Mr. Knutson added, "MFA's portfolio asset selection process continues to emphasize residential mortgage credit exposure while seeking to minimize sensitivity to interest rates. As housing prices maintain their upward trend and borrowers repair their credit and balance sheets, MFA's Legacy Non-Agency MBS portfolio continues to outperform our credit assumptions. In the third quarter of 2017, we reduced our credit reserve on this portfolio by $14.8 million. Also, our credit sensitive residential whole loans offer additional exposure to residential mortgage credit while affording us the opportunity to improve outcomes through sensible and effective servicing decisions."

During the third quarter, while MFA successfully purchased (or committed to purchase) nearly $600 million of investments in credit sensitive whole loans, RPL/NPL MBS, MSR related assets and CRT securities, we also experienced an elevated level of runoff in RPL/NPL MBS as issuers called a number of deals and refinanced at lower coupons.

MFA's Legacy Non-Agency MBS had a face amount of $2.9 billion with an amortized cost of $2.1 billion and a net purchase discount of $835.8 million at September 30, 2017. This discount consists of a $593.1 million credit reserve and other-than-temporary impairments and a $242.7 million net accretable discount. We believe this credit reserve appropriately factors in remaining uncertainties regarding underlying mortgage performance and the potential impact on future cash flows. Our Legacy Non-Agency MBS have underlying mortgage loans that are on average approximately eleven years seasoned and approximately 11.8% are currently 60 or more days delinquent.

The Agency MBS portfolio had an amortized cost basis of 103.8% of par as of September 30, 2017, and generated a 1.97% yield in the third quarter. The Legacy Non-Agency MBS portfolio had an amortized cost of 71.3% of par as of September 30, 2017, and generated a loss-adjusted yield of 8.93% in the third quarter. At the end of the third quarter, MFA held approximately $1.2 billion of RPL/NPL MBS. These securities had an amortized cost of 99.84% of par and generated a 4.43% yield for the quarter.

In addition, at September 30, 2017, our investments in credit sensitive residential whole loans totaled $1.7 billion. Of this amount, $639.2 million is recorded at carrying value, or 86.0% of the interest-bearing unpaid principal balance, and generated a loss-adjusted yield of 5.92% (5.43% net of servicing costs) during the quarter, and $1.1 billion is recorded at fair value on our consolidated balance sheet. On this portion of the portfolio, we recorded gains for the quarter of approximately $18.7 million, primarily reflecting changes in the fair value of the underlying loans and coupon interest payments received during the quarter.

For the three months ended September 30, 2017, MFA's costs for compensation and benefits and other general and administrative expenses were $15.0 million, or an annualized 1.84% of stockholders' equity as of September 30, 2017. Our costs for compensation and benefits were higher than usual this quarter as they include the impact of non-recurring expenses recorded related to the Company's contractual obligations to our former CEO, William S. Gorin, who sadly passed away in August.

The following table presents the weighted average prepayment speed on MFA's MBS portfolio.

Table 1

	Third Quarter 2017 Average CPR	Second Quarter 2017 Average CPR
Agency MBS	16.2%	16.3%
Legacy Non-Agency MBS	18.7%	18.2%
RPL/NPL MBS *(1)*	26.2%	36.2%

(1) All principal payments are considered to be prepayments for conditional prepayment rate ("CPR") purposes. RPL/NPL MBS are securitized financial instruments that are primarily backed by securitized re-performing and non-performing loans. The majority of these securities are structured such that the coupon increases up to 300 basis points at 36 months from issuance or sooner.

As of September 30, 2017, under its swap agreements, MFA had a weighted average fixed-pay rate of interest of 2.04% and a floating receive rate of 1.24% on notional balances totaling $2.6 billion, with an average maturity of 30 months.

The following table presents MFA's asset allocation as of September 30, 2017, and the third quarter 2017 yield on average interest-earning assets, average cost of funds and net interest rate spread for the various asset types.

Table 2

ASSET ALLOCATION

At September 30, 2017	Agency MBS	Legacy Non-Agency MBS	RPL/NPL MBS	Credit Risk Transfer Securities	MSR Related Assets	Residential Whole Loans, at Carrying Value	Residential Whole Loans, at Fair Value	Other, net (1)	Total
($ in Millions)									
Fair Value/Carrying Value	$ 3,019	$ 2,717	$ 1,195	$ 654	$ 412	$ 639	$ 1,103	$ 748	$ 10,487
Less Payable for Unsettled Purchases	—	(4)	—	—	—	—	(120)	—	(124)
Less Repurchase Agreements	(2,671)	(1,837)	(798)	(413)	(269)	(273)	(610)	—	(6,871)
Less Senior Notes	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	(97)	(97)
Less Securitized Debt	—	—	—	—	—	(111)	(26)	—	(137)
Net Equity Allocated	$ 348	$ 876	$ 397	$ 241	$ 143	$ 255	$ 347	$ 651	$ 3,258
Debt/Net Equity Ratio *(2)*	7.7x	2.1x	2.0x	1.7x	1.9x	1.5x	2.2x		2.4x
For the Quarter Ended September 30, 2017									
Yield on Average Interest Earning Assets *(3)*	1.97%	8.93%	4.43%	5.74%	6.33%	5.92%	N/A	—%	4.68%
Less Average Cost of Funds *(4)*	(1.75)	(3.26)	(2.69)	(2.54)	(3.13)	(3.39)	(3.63)	—	(2.66)
Net Interest Rate Spread	0.22%	5.67%	1.74%	3.20%	3.20%	2.53%	N/A	—%	2.02%

(1) Includes cash and cash equivalents and restricted cash, securities obtained and pledged as collateral, other assets, obligation to return securities obtained as collateral and other liabilities.

(2) Represents the sum of borrowings under repurchase agreements, securitized debt and payable for unsettled purchases as a multiple of net equity allocated. The numerator of our Total Debt/Net Equity Ratio also includes the obligation to return securities obtained as collateral of $507.3 million and Senior Notes.

(3) Yields reported on our interest earning assets are calculated based on the interest income recorded and the average amortized cost for the quarter of the respective asset. At September 30, 2017, the amortized cost of our interest earning assets were as follows: Agency MBS - $3.0 billion; Legacy Non-Agency MBS - $2.1 billion; RPL/NPL MBS - $1.2 billion; Credit Risk Transfer securities - $612.7 million; and Residential Whole Loans at carrying value - $639.2 million. In addition, the yield for residential whole loans at carrying value was 5.43% net of 49 basis points of servicing fee expense incurred during the quarter. For GAAP reporting purposes, such expenses are included in Loan servicing and other related operating expenses in our statement of operations. Interest payments received on residential whole loans at fair value is reported in Other Income as Net gain on residential whole loans held at fair value in our statement of operations. Accordingly, no yield is presented as such loans are not included in interest earning assets for reporting purposes.

(4) Average cost of funds includes interest on repurchase agreements and other advances, the cost of swaps and Senior Notes. Agency cost of funds includes 44 basis points and Legacy Non-Agency cost of funds includes 45 basis points associated with swaps to hedge interest rate sensitivity on these assets.

At September 30, 2017, MFA's $5.7 billion of Agency and Legacy Non-Agency MBS were backed by Hybrid, adjustable and fixed-rate mortgages. Additional information about these MBS, including average months to reset and three-month average CPR, is presented below:

Table 3

	Agency MBS			Legacy Non-Agency MBS (1)			Total (1)		
Time to Reset	Fair Value (2)	Average Months to Reset (3)	3 Month Average CPR (4)	Fair Value	Average Months to Reset (3)	3 Month Average CPR (4)	Fair Value (2)	Average Months to Reset (3)	3 Month Average CPR (4)
($ in Millions)									

< 2 years *(5)*	$ 1,598	8	20.4%	$ 1,845	5	19.0%	$ 3,443	6	19.6%
2-5 years	144	46	12.0	—	—	—	144	46	12.0
> 5 years	60	67	12.8	—	—	—	60	67	12.8
ARM-MBS Total	$ 1,802	13	19.5%	$ 1,845	5	19.0%	$ 3,647	9	19.2%
15-year fixed *(6)*	$ 1,216		11.4%	$ 3		12.9%	$ 1,219		11.4%
30-year fixed *(6)*	—		—	831		18.3	831		18.3
40-year fixed *(6)*	—		—	38		15.1	38		15.1
Fixed-Rate Total	$ 1,216		11.4%	$ 872		18.1%	$ 2,088		14.4%
MBS Total	$ 3,018		16.2%	$ 2,717		18.7%	$ 5,735		17.5%

(1) Excludes $1.2 billion of RPL/NPL MBS.
(2) Does not include principal payments receivable of $1.1 million.
(3) Months to Reset is the number of months remaining before the coupon interest rate resets. At reset, the MBS coupon will adjust based upon the underlying benchmark interest rate index, margin and periodic or lifetime caps. Months to Reset does not reflect scheduled amortization or prepayments.
(4) 3 month average CPR weighted by positions as of beginning of each month in the quarter.
(5) Includes floating rate MBS that may be collateralized by fixed-rate mortgages.
(6) Information presented based on data available at time of loan origination.

Webcast

MFA Financial, Inc. plans to host a live audio webcast of its investor conference call on Thursday, November 2, 2017, at 11:00 a.m. (Eastern Time) to discuss its third quarter 2017 financial results. The live audio webcast will be accessible to the general public over the internet at http://www.mfafinancial.com through the "Webcasts & Presentations" link on MFA's home page. To listen to the conference call over the internet, please go to the MFA website at least 15 minutes before the call to register and to download and install any needed audio software. Earnings presentation materials will be posted on the MFA website prior to the conference call and an audio replay will be available on the website following the call.

Cautionary Language Regarding Forward-Looking Statements

When used in this press release or other written or oral communications, statements which are not historical in nature, including those containing words such as "will," "believe," "expect," "anticipate," "estimate," "plan," "continue," "intend," "could," "would," "should," "may" or similar expressions, are intended to identify "forward-looking statements" within the meaning of Section 27A of the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, and Section 21E of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended, and, as such, may involve known and unknown risks, uncertainties and assumptions. Statements regarding the following subjects, among others, may be forward-looking: changes in interest rates and the market value of MFA's MBS; changes in the prepayment rates on the mortgage loans securing MFA's MBS, an increase of which could result in a reduction of the yield on MBS in our portfolio and could require us to reinvest the proceeds received by us as a result of such prepayments in MBS with lower coupons; credit risks underlying MFA's assets, including changes in the

default rates and management's assumptions regarding default rates on the mortgage loans securing MFA's Non-Agency MBS and relating to MFA's residential whole loan portfolio; MFA's ability to borrow to finance its assets and the terms, including the cost, maturity and other terms, of any such borrowings; implementation of or changes in government regulations or programs affecting MFA's business; MFA's estimates regarding taxable income, the actual amount of which is dependent on a number of factors, including, but not limited to, changes in the amount of interest income and financing costs, the method elected by MFA to accrete the market discount on Non-Agency MBS and residential whole loans and the extent of prepayments, realized losses and changes in the composition of MFA's Agency MBS, Non-Agency MBS and residential whole loan portfolios that may occur during the applicable tax period, including gain or loss on any MBS disposals and whole loan modification, foreclosure and liquidation; the timing and amount of distributions to stockholders, which are declared and paid at the discretion of MFA's Board of Directors and will depend on, among other things, MFA's taxable income, its financial results and overall financial condition and liquidity, maintenance of its REIT qualification and such other factors as the Board deems relevant; MFA's ability to maintain its qualification as a REIT for federal income tax purposes; MFA's ability to maintain its exemption from registration under the Investment Company Act of 1940, as amended (or the "Investment Company Act"), including statements regarding the Concept Release issued by the Securities and Exchange Commission ("SEC") relating to interpretive issues under the Investment Company Act with respect to the status under the Investment Company Act of certain companies that are engaged in the business of acquiring mortgages and mortgage-related interests; MFA's ability to successfully implement its strategy to grow its residential whole loan portfolio, which is dependent on, among other things, the supply of loans offered for sale in the market; expected returns on our investments in non-performing residential whole loans ("NPLs"), which are affected by, among other things, the length of time required to foreclose upon, sell, liquidate or otherwise reach a resolution of the property underlying the NPL, home price values, amounts advanced to carry the asset (e.g., taxes, insurance, maintenance expenses, etc. on the underlying property) and the amount ultimately realized upon resolution of the asset; and risks associated with investing in real estate assets, including changes in business conditions and general economic conditions. These and other risks, uncertainties and factors, including those described in the annual, quarterly and current reports that MFA files with the SEC, could cause MFA's actual results to differ materially from those projected in any forward-looking statements it makes. All forward-looking statements speak only as of the date on which they are made. New risks and uncertainties arise over time and it is not possible to predict those events or how they may affect MFA. Except as required by law, MFA is not obligated to, and does not intend to, update or revise any forward-looking statements, whether as a result of new information, future events or otherwise.

MFA FINANCIAL, INC.
CONSOLIDATED BALANCE SHEETS

(In Thousands, Except Share and Per Share Amounts)	September 30, 2017 (Unaudited)	December 31, 2016
Assets:		
Mortgage-backed securities ("MBS") and credit risk transfer ("CRT") securities:		
Agency MBS, at fair value ($2,911,353 and $3,540,401 pledged as collateral, respectively)	$ 3,019,304	$ 3,738,497
Non-Agency MBS, at fair value ($2,853,891 and $4,751,419 pledged as collateral, respectively) *(1)*	3,911,660	5,684,836
CRT securities, at fair value ($530,833 and $357,488 pledged as collateral, respectively)	653,633	404,850
Mortgage servicing rights ("MSR") related assets ($412,674 and $226,780 pledged as collateral, respectively)	411,840	226,780
Residential whole loans, at carrying value ($347,906 and $427,880 pledged as collateral, respectively) *(2)*	639,216	590,540
Residential whole loans, at fair value ($903,494 and $734,331 pledged as collateral, respectively) *(2)*	1,103,518	814,682

Securities obtained and pledged as collateral, at fair value	507,318	510,767
Cash and cash equivalents	608,173	260,112
Restricted cash	15,440	58,463
Other assets	233,357	194,495
Total Assets	$ 11,103,459	$ 12,484,022
Liabilities:		
Repurchase agreements and other advances	$ 6,871,443	$ 8,687,268
Obligation to return securities obtained as collateral, at fair value	507,318	510,767
8% Senior Notes due 2042 (“Senior Notes”)	96,763	96,733
Payable for unsettled MBS and residential whole loans purchases	124,006	—
Other liabilities	246,278	155,352
Total Liabilities	$ 7,845,808	$ 9,450,120
Stockholders’ Equity:		
Preferred stock, $.01 par value; 7.50% Series B cumulative redeemable; 8,050 shares authorized; 8,000 shares issued and outstanding ($200,000 aggregate liquidation preference)	$ 80	$ 80
Common stock, $.01 par value; 886,950 shares authorized; 396,939 and 371,854 shares issued and outstanding, respectively	3,969	3,719
Additional paid-in capital, in excess of par	3,219,398	3,029,062
Accumulated deficit	(596,022)	(572,641)
Accumulated other comprehensive income	630,226	573,682
Total Stockholders’ Equity	$ 3,257,651	$ 3,033,902
Total Liabilities and Stockholders’ Equity	$ 11,103,459	$ 12,484,022

(1) Includes approximately $174.4 million of Non-Agency MBS transferred to consolidated VIEs at December 31, 2016. Such assets can be used only to settle the obligations of each respective VIE.

(2) Includes approximately $131.3 million of Residential whole loans, at carrying value and $40.4 million of Residential whole loans, at fair value transferred to a consolidated VIE at September 30, 2017. Such assets can be used only to settle the obligations of the VIE.

MFA FINANCIAL, INC.
CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF OPERATIONS

(In Thousands, Except Per Share Amounts)	Three Months Ended September 30, 2017	Three Months Ended September 30, 2016	Nine Months Ended September 30, 2017	Nine Months Ended September 30, 2016
	(Unaudited)			
Interest Income:				
Agency MBS	$ 15,533	$ 18,957	$ 50,014	$ 64,546
Non-Agency MBS	63,252	83,638	212,728	253,555
CRT securities	8,676	3,983	22,898	9,897
MSR related assets	7,194	—	17,833	—
Residential whole loans held at carrying value	9,026	5,917	26,219	16,112
Cash and cash equivalent investments	1,452	221	2,854	531
Interest Income	$ 105,133	$ 112,716	$ 332,546	$ 344,641
Interest Expense:				
Repurchase agreements and other advances	$ 46,303	$ 46,158	$ 141,444	$ 137,127
Senior Notes and other interest expense	2,972	2,009	7,202	6,360
Interest Expense	$ 49,275	$ 48,167	$ 148,646	$ 143,487
Net Interest Income	$ 55,858	$ 64,549	$ 183,900	$ 201,154
Other-Than-Temporary Impairments:				
Total other-than-temporary impairment losses	$ —	$ (1,255)	$ (63)	$ (1,255)
Portion of loss recognized in/(reclassed from) other comprehensive income	—	770	(969)	770
Net Impairment Losses Recognized in Earnings	$ —	$ (485)	$ (1,032)	$ (485)
Other Income, net:				
Net gain on residential whole loans held at fair value	$ 18,679	$ 19,639	$ 48,660	$ 47,729
Net gain on sales of MBS and U.S. Treasury securities	14,933	7,083	30,530	26,069
Other, net	(4,515)	7,179	14,844	9,844
Other Income, net	$ 29,097	$ 33,901	$ 94,034	$ 83,642
Operating and Other Expense:				
Compensation and benefits	$ 10,892	$ 7,078	$ 26,258	$ 21,507
Other general and administrative expense	4,081	3,709	14,060	12,508
Loan servicing and other related operating expenses	6,177	4,167	14,785	10,265
Operating and Other Expense	$ 21,150	$ 14,954	$ 55,103	$ 44,280
Net Income	$ 63,805	$ 83,011	$ 221,799	$ 240,031
Less Preferred Stock Dividends	3,750	3,750	11,250	11,250

Net Income Available to Common Stock and Participating Securities	$ 60,055	$ 79,261	$ 210,549	$ 228,781
Earnings per Common Share - Basic and Diluted	$ 0.15	$ 0.21	$ 0.54	$ 0.61
Dividends Declared per Share of Common Stock	$ 0.20	$ 0.20	$ 0.60	$ 0.60

Exhibit 99.2

MFA

FINANCIAL, INC.

Third Quarter 2017

Earnings Presentation

Forward Looking Statements

When used in this presentation or other written or oral communications, statements which are not historical in nature, including those containing words such as "will," "believe," "expect," "anticipate," "estimate," "plan," "continue," "intend," "should," "could," "would," "may" or similar expressions, are intended to identify "forward-looking statements" within the meaning of Section 27A of the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, and Section 21E of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended, and, as such, may involve known and unknown risks, uncertainties and assumptions. Statements regarding the following subjects, among others, may be forward-looking: changes in interest rates and the market value of MFA's MBS; changes in the prepayment rates on the mortgage loans securing MFA's MBS, an increase of which could result in a reduction of the yield on MBS in our portfolio and could require us to reinvest the proceeds received by us as a result of such prepayments in MBS with lower coupons; credit risks underlying MFA's assets, including changes in the default rates and management's assumptions regarding default rates on the mortgage loans securing MFA's Non-Agency MBS and relating to MFA's residential whole loan portfolio; MFA's ability to borrow to finance its assets and the terms, including the cost, maturity and other terms, of any such borrowings; implementation of or changes in government regulations or programs affecting MFA's business; MFA's estimates regarding taxable income, the actual amount of which is dependent on a number of factors, including, but not limited to, changes in the amount of interest income and financing costs, the method elected by MFA to accrete the market discount on Non-Agency MBS and residential whole loans and the extent of prepayments, realized losses and changes in the composition of MFA's Agency MBS, Non-Agency MBS and residential whole loan portfolios that may occur during the applicable tax period, including gain or loss on any MBS disposals and whole loan modification, foreclosure and liquidation; the timing and amount of distributions to stockholders, which are declared and paid at the discretion of MFA's Board of Directors and will depend on, among other things, MFA's taxable income, its financial results and overall financial condition and liquidity, maintenance of its REIT qualification and such other factors as the Board deems relevant; MFA's ability to maintain its qualification as a REIT for federal income tax purposes; MFA's ability to maintain its exemption from registration under the Investment Company Act of 1940, as amended (or the Investment Company Act), including statements regarding the Concept Release issued by the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) relating to interpretive issues under the Investment Company Act with respect to the status under the Investment Company Act of certain companies that are engaged in the business of acquiring mortgages and mortgage-related interests; MFA's ability to successfully implement its strategy to grow its residential whole loan portfolio which is dependent on, among other things, the supply of loans offered for sale in the market; expected returns on our investments in non-performing residential whole loans (NPLs), which are affected by, among other things, the length of time required to foreclose upon, sell, liquidate or otherwise reach a resolution of the property underlying the NPL, home price values, amounts advanced to carry the asset (e.g., taxes, insurance, maintenance expenses, etc. on the underlying property) and the amount ultimately realized upon resolution of the asset; and risks associated with investing in real estate assets, including changes in business conditions and general economic conditions. These and other risks, uncertainties and factors, including those described in the annual, quarterly and current reports that MFA files with the SEC, could cause MFA's actual results to differ materially from those projected in any forward-looking statements it makes. All forward-looking statements speak only as of the date on which they are made and are based on beliefs, assumptions and expectations of MFA's future performance, taking into account information currently available. New risks and uncertainties arise over time and it is not possible to predict those events or how they may affect MFA. You are cautioned not to place undue reliance on these forward-looking statements, which speak only as of the date on which they are made. Except as required by law, MFA is not obligated to, and does not intend to, update or revise any forward-looking statements, whether as a result of new information, future events or otherwise.

Executive summary

- In the third quarter we generated EPS of $0.15, down from prior earnings due primarily to:
  - Lower prices of CRT securities due in large part to Harvey and Irma related concerns
  - One-time contractual obligations of the Company to the estate of our former CEO
- Book value per share decreased modestly during the quarter to $7.70, but is up from $7.62 at December 31, 2016, as our investment strategy continues to produce stable book value.
- Undistributed taxable income of $0.15 per common share at September 30, 2017.
- We remain active in the market, investing nearly $600 million in the third quarter. Portfolio run-off slowed somewhat in the third quarter, but was still high.

Executive summary

Through volatile markets and both interest rate and credit cycles, MFA has generated strong long term returns to investors

Time Period	Annualized MFA Shareholder Return [1]
Since January 1, 2000	15.7%
10 Year	14.4%
5 Year	14.3%
1 Year	29.2%

[1] As of 9/30/17 assuming reinvestment of dividends.

MFA FINANCIAL, INC.

Investment strategy

Position for less predictable fiscal and monetary policy.

- During 2017, we have focused on shorter term, less interest rate sensitive assets.
- Elevated asset prices and lower market yields have shifted risk/reward profiles.
- Given the current investment landscape, we will continue to expand our investment opportunity set within the residential mortgage space, utilizing the same disciplined approach to risk/reward as we have done in the past.
- Maintain staying power and the ability to invest in distressed, less liquid assets:
  - Permanent equity capital
  - Debt to equity ratio is low enough to accommodate potential declines in asset prices

Market conditions and investment activity

- Despite a challenging investment environment, MFA purchased or committed to purchase close to $600 million in assets in the third quarter.
- Portfolio run-off slowed somewhat in the third quarter (to $1 billion vs. $1.75 billion in Q2) but remained elevated.
- Higher prices for nearly all asset classes have altered risk/reward levels. We have maintained our pricing discipline despite our desire to replace run-off.
- Unlike Agency MBS, our other asset classes are not always available for purchase.
- While credit concerns related to Harvey and Irma caused spread widening in CRT securities, we expect that the impact across our portfolio will be quite limited.

EPS impacted primarily due to unrealized losses on CRTs

Summary Income Statement	Q3 2017 $m	Q2 2017 $m
Net Interest Income	**55.9**	**61.1**
Other Income (net)		
MBS sale gains	14.9	5.9
Income from fair value loans	18.7	16.2
CRT securities held at fair value	(5.2)	13.8
Other loan and REO related income and OTTI (1)	0.7	0.4
Total Other Income (net)	**29.1**	**36.3**
Operating and Other Expenses	(21.2)	(17.5)
Preferred Dividends	(3.8)	(3.8)
Net Income Available to Common Shareholders	**60.1**	**76.2**
Earnings Per Common Share	**$0.15**	**$0.20**

(1) Includes Other-Than-Temporary Impairments of $0 and $618,000 for the three month periods ended September 30, 2017 and June 30, 2017, respectively.

- We noted last quarter the increasing contribution of other income to overall net income. Q3 2017 saw this trend continue as net interest income declined sequentially due to:
  - Run-off in assets that generate net interest income;
  - Continued acquisition of assets accounted for under the fair value option (changes in fair value are reflected in other income rather than net interest income); and
  - Higher funding costs impacting overall net interest spreads.
- EPS was negatively impacted this quarter due to lower net other income, primarily driven by decreases in unrealized gains in CRT securities as pricing reflected market concerns related to hurricanes and other factors.
- In addition, operating and other expenses were higher than usual this quarter, primarily reflecting the impact of non-recurring expenses related to our contractual obligations to the estate of our former CEO.

MFA FINANCIAL, INC.

Third quarter investment flows

Our assets run-off due to amortization, paydowns or sale, allowing reinvestment opportunities in changing interest rate and credit environments.

$ in Millions	June 30, 2017	3rd Quarter Runoff	3rd Quarter Acquisitions	MTM and other changes	September 30, 2017	3rd Quarter Change
Re-performing and Non-performing Loans and REO	$1,749	$(87)	$202	$17	$1,881	$132
RPL/NPL MBS (1)	$1,421	$(411)	$184	$1	$1,195	$(226)
MSR Related Assets (2)	$374	$(124)	$161	$1	$412	$38
Credit Risk Transfer Securities	$636	$(5)	$29	$(6)	$654	$18
Legacy Non-Agency MBS	$2,897	$(183)	$4	$(1)	$2,717	$(180)
Agency MBS	$3,248	$(217)	$—	$(12)	$3,019	$(229)
Totals	**$10,325**	**$(1,027)**	**$580**	**$—**	**$9,878**	**$(447)**

(1) RPL/NPL are securitized financial instruments that are backed by re-performing and non-performing loans. The majority of these securities are structured such that the coupon increases up to 300 basis points (bps) at 36 months from issuance or sooner.

(2) MSR Related Assets include investments in Term Notes and a Corporate Loan whose cash flows are considered to be largely dependent on underlying MSRs that either directly or indirectly act as collateral for the investment.

MFA's yields and spreads remain attractive

	Third Quarter 2017	Second Quarter 2017	First Quarter 2017	Fourth Quarter 2016
Yield on Interest Earning Assets	4.68%	4.61%	4.61%	4.34%
Net Interest Rate Spread	2.02%	2.10%	2.27%	2.12%
Debt to Equity Ratio	2.4x	2.5x	2.9x	3.1x

Third quarter 2017 yields and spreads by asset type

Asset	Yield/Return	Cost of Funds	Net Spread	Debt/Net Equity Ratio
Agency MBS	1.97%	(1.75)%	0.22%	7.7x
Legacy Non-Agency MBS	8.93%	(3.26)%	5.67%	2.1x
RPL/NPL MBS	4.43%	(2.69)%	1.74%	2.0x
Credit Risk Transfer Securities	5.74%	(2.54)%	3.20%	1.7x
MSR Related Assets	6.33%	(3.13)%	3.20%	1.9x
RPL Whole Loans	5.43% (1)	(3.39)%	2.04%	1.5x
NPL Whole Loans	(2)	(3.63)%	(2)	2.2x

(1) Net of 49 bps of servicing costs.

(2) These residential whole loans are held at fair value and produce GAAP income/loss based on changes in fair value in the current period, and therefore results will vary on a quarter-to-quarter basis. MFA expects to realize returns over time on these whole loan investments of 5-7%.

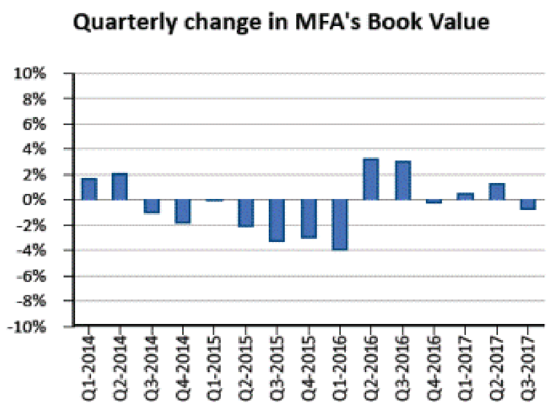
MFA's interest rate sensitivity remains low, as measured by estimated net duration

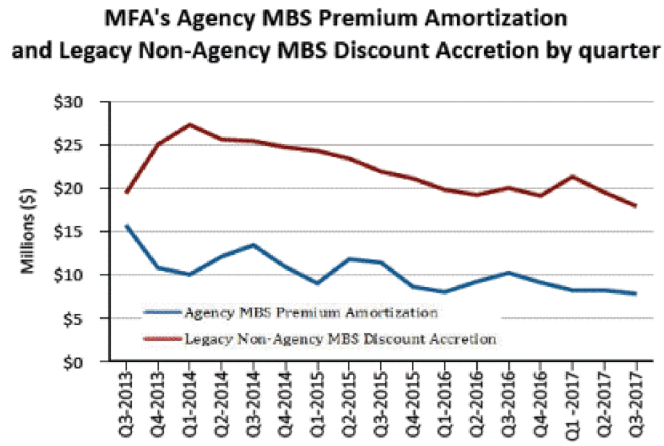
$ in Millions

Assets	Market Value	Average Coupon	Duration
Non-Agency ARMs and CRTs (12 months or less MTR)	$2,496	3.76%	0.4
RPL/NPL MBS	$1,195	3.87%	0.4
Non-Agency Fixed Rate	$875	5.79%	3.0
Residential Whole Loans	$1,797	4.47%	2.5
MSR Related Assets	$413	6.12%	0.1
Agency ARMs (12 months or less MTR)	$1,299	3.41%	0.6
Agency ARMs (13-120 MTR)	$503	2.80%	1.6
Agency 15-Year Fixed Rate	$1,216	3.04%	2.9
Cash, cash equivalents and Other Assets	$763		0.1
TOTAL ASSETS	$10,556		1.31
Hedging Instruments	**Notional Amount**		**Duration**
Swaps (Less than 3 years)	$2,250		-2.1
Swaps (3-10 years)	$300		-3.9
TOTAL HEDGES	**$2,550**		**-2.3**
Estimated Net Duration			**0.76**

MTR: Months to reset

MFA's strategy has consistently delivered book value stability and low sensitivity to prepayment rates





MFA's investment strategy has consistently minimized book value volatility. In the last few years the average quarterly book value change has been less than 2%.

Legacy Non-Agency MBS discount accretion has exceeded Agency MBS premium amortization since 2013.

Continued positive fundamentals for residential mortgage credit

- Fundamental and technical support for residential credit assets and home prices.
- Unemployment rate of 4.2% in September 2017, down from 4.9% a year ago.
- According to the Urban Institute and CoreLogic, the percentage of homes with negative equity fell to 5.4% in September 2017 from 7.1% the prior year.
- According to the CoreLogic Loan Performance insights report released in October 2017, nationwide delinquencies continue to decline. 30+ day delinquency rates have dropped to 4.6% versus 5.5% a year ago.

Credit sensitive residential whole loan portfolio

- We purchased $202MM of credit sensitive loans and REO in the 3rd quarter.
- Returns to date are consistent with our expectation of 5-7%.
- We believe that our oversight of servicing decisions (loan modifications, short sales, etc.) produces better economic outcomes.
- Actively managing loan portfolio through in-house asset management professionals utilizing third-party special servicers.
- Additional opportunities to achieve attractive term financing through securitization of re-performing loans.

Performance of delinquent loans purchased before 9/30/16

Delinquent at purchase[1]; held over one year % by loan count		
Status as of 9/30/17	Count	% of Total
Performing [2]	1,058	28%
Paid in full	204	5%
Non-performing	1,272	33%
REO	434	11%
Liquidated	868	23%
Total	**3,836**	**100%**

- Measured by percentage of total loan count, 33% of loans which were delinquent at purchase are either performing or have paid in full as of September 2017.
- 81% of loans modified by MFA are either performing[2] today or have paid in full.

[1] Defined as MBA 60-days delinquent or more at the time of purchase

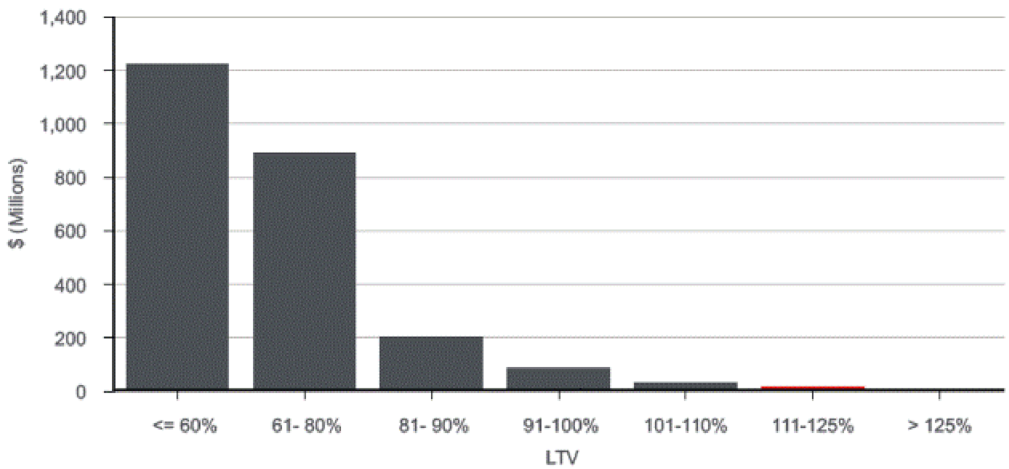
[2] Defined as MBA current, 30-days delinquent or made a payment in September 2017

RPL/NPL MBS portfolio

- Current market yields of approximately 3% for A1 classes and 5% for A2 classes.
- Well protected portfolio with substantial credit enhancement.
- Growing number of repo providers for this asset class.
- Very short assets with an average of 22 months remaining to step-up.
- We have witnessed very low levels of price volatility.

	Fair value (millions)	Net Coupon	Months to step-up	Current CE	Original CE	3 Month Bond CPR
RPL MBS	$84.0	3.65%	32	37.5%	35.0%	43.0%
NPL MBS	$1,110.9	4.25%	21	46.6%	45.1%	22.6%
Total	**$1,194.9**	**4.21%**	**22**	**46.0%**	**44.4%**	**26.2%**

LTV breakdown of non-delinquent mortgage loans underlying MFA's Legacy Non-Agency MBS



- These loans are up to date on all required mortgage payments.
- Underlying loans are over eleven years seasoned on average.

Source: CoreLogic
Data as of September 30, 2017

Summary

- We remain active in the market; MFA successfully purchased or committed to purchase nearly $600 million of investments in the third quarter.
- We continue to expand our investment opportunity set within the residential mortgage space, utilizing the same disciplined approach to risk/reward as we have in the past.
- Our Legacy Non-Agency assets continue to perform well and our diligent asset management is producing attractive economic outcomes on our credit sensitive loans.
- MFA is well-positioned for changes in prepayment rates, monetary policy and/or interest rates.

Additional Information

MFA FINANCIAL, INC.

Book value for the quarter decreased modestly, as dividend distributions exceeded GAAP income, but is up 1% year-to-date

	Qtr ended 9/30/17	YTD 9/30/17
Book value per common share at the beginning of the period	$7.76	$7.62
Net income available to common shareholders	0.15	0.54
Common dividends declared	(0.20)	(0.60)
Net change attributable to Agency MBS	(0.01)	(0.06)
Net change attributable to Non-Agency MBS and CRT securities	(0.01)	0.16
Net change in value of swap hedges	0.01	0.04
Book value per common share as of 9/30/17	$7.70	$7.70