

Equity Commonwealth  
Form 8-K  
July 24, 2015

**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): **July 24, 2015**

**EQUITY COMMONWEALTH**

(Exact Name of Registrant as Specified in Its Charter)

**Maryland**

(State or Other Jurisdiction of Incorporation)

**1-9317**  
(Commission File Number)

**Two North Riverside Plaza,**  
**Suite 600, Chicago, IL**  
(Address of Principal Executive Offices)

**04-6558834**  
(IRS Employer Identification No.)

**60606**  
(Zip Code)

**(312) 646-2800**

## Edgar Filing: Equity Commonwealth - Form 8-K

(Registrant's Telephone Number, Including Area Code)

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:

- 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))
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**Item 8.01. Other Events**

On July 24, 2015, Equity Commonwealth (the Company) entered into a Settlement and Release Agreement (the Settlement Agreement) with William Gore (Gore) to resolve the previously disclosed action *William Gore v. Portnoy*, Case No. 373086-V (the Gore Action), filed by Gore individually and derivatively on behalf of the Company, as the nominal defendant, against certain of the Company's former officers and trustees.

As previously disclosed, in the Gore Action, Gore asserted claims against the defendants for breach of fiduciary duty, waste of corporate assets and unjust enrichment. The Company filed a demand for arbitration for the Gore Action, which arbitration remained outstanding as of the date of the Settlement Agreement (the Gore Arbitration). The parties in the Gore Action agreed to a voluntary dismissal of the Gore Action without prejudice and entered into an agreement to toll the statute of limitations for the claims asserted in the Gore Action until July 31, 2015. The parties have now agreed to settle the claims and withdraw the Gore Arbitration.

The Settlement Agreement provides that the plaintiffs will dismiss with prejudice all of the claims in the Gore Arbitration with respect to the named plaintiff only. The Company has agreed to pay \$125,000 to the plaintiff's counsel for a portion of the costs and expenses incurred in connection with the Gore Action and the Gore Arbitration.

**SIGNATURES**

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.

**EQUITY COMMONWEALTH**

By: */s/ Orrin S. Shifrin*  
Name: Orrin S. Shifrin  
Title: Executive Vice President, General Counsel and Secretary

Date: July 24, 2015