Pivot Point

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SHENKMAN[™]

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August was a true test of the resiliency of the markets. Following a steep but brief correction early in the month, the markets rebounded strongly during the latter half. The turnaround in investor sentiment was driven by recent economic data which showed U.S. inflation is almost under control, and concerns over a recession have faded. Hence, Chairman Powell telegraphed that he is willing to loosen monetary policy and finally cut rates at the September FOMC meeting. The "Powell Pivot" appears imminent as the U.S. economy continues to defy predictions for a recession with second quarter GDP growing at a 3% pace. While a September rate cut appears inevitable, the size and timing of further rate cuts remain hot topics among investors. The Fed had been focused squarely on price stability over the last three years, but now seems to have shifted their attention to stabilizing a cooling labor market ahead of the November elections. Meanwhile, the prospect of lower interest rates has resulted in tight spreads in the credit markets. While it is time for the Fed to normalize interest rates, the most likely scenario is a gradual approach, giving them optionality in the event inflation should unexpectedly rebound. Historically, the equity and credit markets have experienced elevated volatility in September and October, and hopefully investors can avoid an "October surprise" this year!

Please contact InvestorRelations@ShenkmanCapital.com for the full letter.

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