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Blaze Capital Partners Positioned for Rapid, Sustained Growth After 2021 Platform Expansion

Rental housing firm expects total transaction volume to exceed \$1.2 billion this year across the Southeast

CHARLESTON, S.C. (Feb. 16, 2022) – Blaze Capital Partners (“Blaze”) today announced 2021 transaction volume totaling \$350 million with an additional \$730 million currently pending. The firm’s 2022 goals project more than \$1.2 billion in total transaction volume as the firm continues to deepen its acquisition and development presence across its conventional multifamily, build-for-rent single family, and multifamily conversion strategies. The significant increase in investment activity follows Blaze’s meaningful investments in talent and execution capabilities in 2021.

“2021 was a year of investment and expansion for Blaze in terms of bolstering our team, deepening our geographic presence, and broadening our execution capabilities. We more than doubled our team, established a full-time presence in Florida, and launched an additional investment strategy,” said Eddy O’Brien, co-founder and managing partner at Blaze. “In 2022, we anticipate this investment to bear fruit and are beginning to unleash the potential of our best-in-class team.”

Blaze added 11 professionals to its offices in Charleston, Atlanta, and South Florida, with a focus on expanding its acquisition, development, capital markets and asset management teams. The firm strategically tapped experienced leaders with institutional backgrounds across the residential spectrum to join the team, including Cortland, JPMorgan, RAM Realty Advisors, Jamestown, CBRE, Holland Partner Group and Peak Campus. On the heels of such growth, Blaze will relocate its Charleston headquarters to the prominent Morrison Yards waterfront development in the city’s downtown district in 2022. Additionally, its Atlanta office will relocate to larger space at The Battery, a lifestyle destination anchored by Truist Park, home of the Atlanta Braves.

As a strategy-first platform, Blaze added a new focus last year, launching its first hotel conversion project in March 2021 when it acquired a nationally branded extended-stay hotel in the rapidly growing University City submarket of Charlotte, North Carolina, in partnership with Argosy Real Estate Partners. Since then, the partnership has closed on two additional extended-stay hotels in the Southwest submarket of Charlotte and the Peachtree Corners submarket of Atlanta, with a fourth project in Savannah expected to close in late February. This strategy expansion follows Blaze’s entry into the build-for-rent single family arena in the prior year. The firm has a current development pipeline of over \$275 million in development projects in Charleston, Greenville, Tampa, and the Florida Space Coast. In addition, the company is currently raising a dedicated build-for-rent acquisition vehicle to augment its development activity.



Simultaneously, the firm has continued to execute on its mainstay focus of buying conventional multifamily assets by expanding its market presence last year. The firm acquired several apartment communities as part of its strategy to aggregate exceptional rental housing properties in high-growth markets throughout the Southeast, including Crowne at Old Carolina in Hilton Head, South Carolina; Tapestry Park in Savannah, Georgia; and Halcyon Apartments in Greenville, South Carolina. Bolstering its successful track record, Blaze also closed on the sale of Dwell at Greenridge, a 256-unit apartment community in North Charleston, in December.

This year, Blaze is projecting over \$500 million in new acquisitions and development starts across all three active strategies, \$350 million of which is already under contract and expected to close in 2022. The firm also plans to pursue numerous dispositions as it seeks to further bolster its successful track record since company inception in 2016.

“Our vision in launching Blaze was to build an entrepreneurial platform fueled by institutional know-how that can evolve with changes in the housing landscape,” said Chris Riley, co-founder and managing partner at Blaze. “The last several years were foundational for Blaze, positioning us for a rapid expansion that will begin to materialize in 2022. We are excited about the growth ahead of us and anticipate ending the year having transacted on roughly 10,000 units and \$2.5 billion in volume since launching in 2016.”

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About Blaze Capital Partners

Blaze Capital Partners is a rental housing investment and development firm driven by a simple but unusual mission: Creating homes for how people live and how they want to live. With a human-first approach fueled by demographic and psychographic research, Blaze owns and operates exceptional communities in high-growth markets throughout the Sunbelt. Headquartered in Charleston, South Carolina, Blaze offers a full suite of investment services, ranging from research and acquisitions to development and asset management. With a current portfolio across North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia and Florida, Blaze has transacted on approximately \$1.2 billion in gross asset value since 2016, and currently has a controlled pipeline of acquisition and development opportunities, comprising over 1,500 units, totaling approximately \$350 million. To learn more about Blaze, visit www.blazecapitalpartners.com.