

For More Information, Contact:
Casey Bowen
The Wilbert Group
cbowen@thewilbertgroup.com

Blaze Hires Investment Banking Veteran as Managing Director of Capital Markets

Frank Bruni joins rental housing investment firm following 19-year-long career at J.P. Morgan

CHARLESTON, S.C. (June 1, 2021) - Blaze Capital Partners, a Charleston, South Carolina-based rental housing investment firm, today announces the hiring of J.P. Morgan veteran Frank Bruni as Managing Director of Capital Markets. In his new role, Bruni will focus on leading the firm's capital raising initiatives, structuring efforts and other strategic growth plans.

"Under the strategic leadership of Blaze's co-founders, Eddy O'Brien and Chris Riley, Blaze does business with a high degree of intensity and integrity, all while maintaining an entrepreneurial culture that inspires innovation and generates new opportunities for each member of the team," said Bruni. "The company is at an exciting inflection point as it solidifies its position as a leader in the rental housing sector. I am thrilled to join Blaze at such an exciting time and look forward to leveraging my skills, experience, and relationships as we continue to cultivate attractive investment opportunities and expand the firm's presence throughout the Sunbelt."

Bruni began his 19-year-long investment banking career at J.P. Morgan in the firm's Syndicated and Leveraged Finance group before moving into Equity Capital Markets where he most recently served as Managing Director and Head of Financials and Fintech Equity Capital Markets. In this role, Bruni was responsible for raising equity capital, transaction structuring, and strategic financing advisement on behalf of a wide array of clients across multiple industries. Throughout his tenure, he raised over \$245 billion of equity across more than 350 transactions, working closely with institutional and retail investors. Bruni earned his MBA in Finance from Emory University's Goizueta Business School and graduated Magna Cum Laude from Duke University, receiving a Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering. Prior to business school, Bruni acted as a Project Manager for two leading global construction management and engineering firms. Frank will be joining Blaze in its Charleston headquarters.

"As we enter the next phase in our firm's growth, expanding our team by attracting high-caliber, institutional talent is a top priority," said Blaze Co-Founder and Managing Partner Chris Riley. "We pride



ourselves on thinking differently than many groups in our space, and Frank’s background and unique experience brings a different perspective that will help strengthen our efforts in a meaningful way.”

Over the past few years, Blaze has grown its rental housing portfolio significantly throughout the Sunbelt. The company, now deploying capital across multiple strategies, has several thousand units in its pipeline, representing nearly \$300 million across acquisition and development opportunities. Most recently, Blaze, in partnership with Argosy Real Estate Partners, acquired a nationally branded extended-stay hotel in the University City submarket of Charlotte, North Carolina, marking the first of many forthcoming transactions within the company's multifamily conversion strategy.

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About Blaze Capital Partners

Multifamily investment firm Blaze Capital Partners owns and operates a portfolio of institutional-quality rental communities located in strategic growth markets throughout the Sunbelt on behalf of a wide range of capital partners including pension plans, family offices, and high net worth individuals. Headquartered in Charleston, South Carolina, the company offers a full suite of investment services including strategy development, acquisitions, development, and asset management capabilities. By leveraging a vast network of industry relationships and extensive executional capabilities, Blaze and its principals have more than \$5 billion in transaction experience. To learn more about Blaze, visit www.blazepartners.com.