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## **Mayor Cuts Ribbon for City Square 162 Apartments in Tremè**

*Grand Opening ceremonies celebrated the completion of 76-unit mixed-income community developed as part of HUD Choice Neighborhoods Initiative*

**NEW ORLEANS (April 11, 2022)** – Today, **Mayor LaToya Cantrell** cut the ribbon in celebration of the grand opening of the City Square 162 apartment building in Treme, developed by McCormack Baron Salazar (MBS) in partnership with the Housing Authority of New Orleans (HANO) and the City of New Orleans. Construction officially began in February 2020 on the multi-family, four-story building and was completed in July 2021. Grand opening ceremonies marked the completion of the building and its full occupancy. City Square 162 is located at 1501 St. Louis Street, on the site of a former Winn-Dixie grocery store. It was developed as a part of the U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Choice Neighborhoods Initiative (CNI) Grant Program awarded to HANO and the City of New Orleans for the Iberville/Treme Transformation Plan.

“The completion of City Square 162 was a collaborative effort, with us leaning in to make sure we brought this project to fruition,” said **Mayor LaToya Cantrell**. The Mayor continued, “The City of New Orleans utilized \$1.5 million in HOME funds, in addition to \$1.7 million in public infrastructure dollars, totaling over \$3.2 million put forth with more to come for housing initiatives. Thanks to my office of Housing Policy and Community Development under the leadership of Marjorianna Willman, the Housing Authority of New Orleans, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, the Louisiana Housing Corporation and other funders, and McCormack Baron Salazar for drawing the line in the sand for affordable housing because everyone deserves just that.”

The City Square 162 apartment building includes 76 one- and two-bedroom units, of which 15 are public housing and 15 are project-based voucher (Section 8) assisted apartments subsidized by HUD. The remaining 46 apartments are unsubsidized and are rented at market rates. The units were built to Enterprise Green Communities standards and achieved Energy Star for Homes certification. All apartments contain energy efficient appliances and are pre-wired with high-speed internet and cable access. The community also has integrated leasing and management spaces, a fitness facility and a multi-purpose community/meeting room with a business area. Outdoor amenities include a pedestrian and bicycle friendly greenway along North Villere Street that connects the Lafitte Greenway to the site and to the adjacent Bienville Basin community.

Supportive services, such as referral services; recreation and wellness programs for tenants of all ages; parenting support; tutoring, after school and summer programs for children; and financial and life skills support are available to all tenants.

“This is a great accomplishment that required teamwork and coordination throughout the process and between all the city, state, federal agencies and partners in the public sector. HANO is very pleased that City Square 162 will offer affordable housing to residents not only in a beautiful new building where they can live, but also in a community where they can work and thrive. City Square 162 is a community that we are certain the 76 families here can proudly call home,” stated Executive Director of HANO Ms. Evette Hester.

City Square 162 is the first of a two-phased development planned for this location. Funding to construct the units was provided by HANO, the City of New Orleans, U. S. Bancorp Community Development Corporation, Louisiana Housing Corporation and Gershman Mortgage. The project will benefit from a Payment In Lieu of Taxes arrangement provided by the Industrial Development Board of the City of New Orleans. HANO acquired the site in 2014 with CNI funding.

Vincent Bennet, CEO and President of McCormack Baron Salazar added, “This phase continues the commitment by the housing partners to the Housing Authority of New Orleans and the City of New Orleans through its Choice Neighborhood program to provide much needed affordable housing replacement units for Iberville. We are proud to continue the transformation and support quality housing for families and children.”

McCormack Baron Management is the property manager for the new development. Architectural services were provided by HCI Architecture, and engineering services were provided by Schrenk Endom & Flanagan. Landis Construction was the general contractor.

### **About the Housing Authority of New Orleans**

The Housing Authority of New Orleans (HANO) is focused on providing affordable housing opportunities for low-income residents of the city of New Orleans while laying the foundation for economic sustainability. HANO serves approximately 20,000 low-income families through a combination of their Housing Choice Voucher Program and public housing units. HANO also serves public housing needs for the elderly and disabled.

**About McCormack Baron Salazar, Inc.**

McCormack Baron Salazar is one of the nation's leading developers, managers, and asset managers of economically integrated urban neighborhoods. Since 1973, the firm has been an innovator of community development and urban revitalization in 48 cities, having built more than 24,000 high-quality homes for families, children, seniors, and veterans.

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