

☐ Check this box if no longer
subject to Section 16. Form 4 or
Form 5 obligations may
continue. See Instruction 1(b).

STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP OF
SECURITIES

Filed pursuant to Section 16(a) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 or
Section 30(h) of the Investment Company Act of 1940

| | | |
|--|---|--|
| 1. Name and Address of Reporting Person * | 2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol | 5. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to Issuer (Check all applicable) |
| Blakely Caroline | Ares Commercial Real Estate Corp [ACRE] | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Director <input type="checkbox"/> 10% Owner |
| (Last) (First) (Middle) | 3. Date of Earliest Transaction (MM/DD/YYYY) | <input type="checkbox"/> Officer (give title below) <input type="checkbox"/> Other (specify below) |
| C/O ARES COMMERCIAL REAL ESTATE CORP., 245 PARK AVENUE, 42ND FLOOR | 4/21/2023 | |
| (Street) | 4. If Amendment, Date Original Filed (MM/DD/YYYY) | 6. Individual or Joint/Group Filing (Check Applicable Line) |
| NEW YORK, NY 10167 | | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Form filed by One Reporting Person |
| (City) (State) (Zip) | Rule 10b5-1(c) Transaction Indication | <input type="checkbox"/> Form filed by More than One Reporting Person |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> Check this box to indicate that a transaction was made pursuant to a contract, instruction or written plan that is intended to satisfy the affirmative defense conditions of Rule 10b5-1(c). See Instruction 10. | |

Table I - Non-Derivative Securities Acquired, Disposed of, or Beneficially Owned

| 1. Title of Security (Instr. 3) | 2. Trans. Date | 2A. Deemed Execution Date, if any | 3. Trans. Code (Instr. 8) | 4. Securities Acquired (A) or Disposed of (D) (Instr. 3, 4 and 5) | 5. Amount of Securities Beneficially Owned Following Reported Transaction(s) (Instr. 3 and 4) | 6. Ownership Form: Direct (D) or Indirect (I) (Instr. 4) | 7. Nature of Indirect Beneficial Ownership (Instr. 4) |
|---------------------------------|----------------|-----------------------------------|---------------------------|---|---|--|---|
| Common Stock | 4/21/2023 | | A | 10711 (1) | 39905 | D | |
| Common Stock | | | | | 13008 | I | By The Caroline E. Blakely Living Trust (2) |

Table II - Derivative Securities Beneficially Owned (e.g., puts, calls, warrants, options, convertible securities)

| 1. Title of Derivate Security (Instr. 3) | 2. Conversion or Exercise Price of Derivative Security | 3. Trans. Date | 3A. Deemed Execution Date, if any | 4. Trans. Code (Instr. 8) | 5. Number of Derivative Securities Acquired (A) or Disposed of (D) (Instr. 3, 4 and 5) | 6. Date Exercisable and Expiration Date | 7. Title and Amount of Securities Underlying Derivative Security (Instr. 3 and 4) | 8. Price of Derivative Security (Instr. 5) | 9. Number of derivative Securities Beneficially Owned Following Reported Transaction(s) (Instr. 4) | 10. Ownership Form of Derivative Security: Direct (D) or Indirect (I) (Instr. 4) | 11. Nature of Indirect Beneficial Ownership (Instr. 4) |
|--|--|----------------|-----------------------------------|---------------------------|--|---|---|--|--|--|--|
| | | | | Code V | (A) (D) | Date Exercisable Expiration Date | Title Amount or Number of Shares | | | | |

Explanation of Responses:

- (1) Represents a grant of restricted stock pursuant to Ares Commercial Real Estate Corporation's Amended and Restated 2012 Equity Incentive Plan. The shares of restricted stock are scheduled to vest ratably on a quarterly basis over a one-year period on the first business day of each fiscal quarter beginning July 1, 2023.
- (2) The common stock is held by The Caroline E. Blakely Living Trust, of which the reporting person is a trustee.

Reporting Owners

| Reporting Owner Name / Address | Relationships | | | |
|--|---------------|-----------|---------|-------|
| | Director | 10% Owner | Officer | Other |
| Blakely Caroline C/O ARES COMMERCIAL REAL ESTATE CORP. 245 PARK AVENUE, 42ND FLOOR NEW YORK, NY 10167 | X | | | |

Signatures

/s/ Anton Feingold, by power of attorney

4/21/2023

**Signature of Reporting Person

Date

Reminder: Report on a separate line for each class of securities beneficially owned directly or indirectly.

* If the form is filed by more than one reporting person, *see* Instruction 4(b)(v).

** Intentional misstatements or omissions of facts constitute Federal Criminal Violations. *See* 18 U.S.C. 1001 and 15 U.S.C. 78ff(a).

Note: File three copies of this Form, one of which must be manually signed. If space is insufficient, *see* Instruction 6 for procedure.

Persons who respond to the collection of information contained in this form are not required to respond unless the form displays a currently valid OMB control number.