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Merger Moves Forward for Rhode Island PBS and The Public's Radio *With Attorney General Approval, Public Media Organizations Advance Shared Vision*

PROVIDENCE – Rhode Island PBS and The Public's Radio today announced that the proposed merger between the two trusted media organizations is moving forward after receiving regulatory approval from Rhode Island Attorney General Peter F. Neronha.

"This is an exciting milestone in what has been a thoughtful and truly collaborative process, and we are grateful to Attorney General Neronha and his staff for their careful consideration of this proposal," said **Elizabeth Delude-Dix**, chair of the board of directors of The Public's Radio, formerly known as Rhode Island Public Radio. "The Public's Radio and Rhode Island PBS have long provided honest journalism, robust educational programming, and engaging and entertaining content to Rhode Island and southeastern Massachusetts. Our impact will be increased and our audience expanded as we take these next exciting steps forward."

"Fueled by our shared vision for a more vibrant public media for the region, our focus over the past year has been securing regulatory approval and illustrating for our viewers and listeners that we have the power to be even stronger together," said **Dave Lavery**, chair of the Rhode Island PBS Foundation Board. "Now, we turn to the important work of bringing our talented teams together and engaging the community to help imagine and co-create a unified public media organization for the future."

The merger application previously received approval from the Federal Communications Commission in January 2024. The organizations will now file with the Secretary of State's Office to complete the formal incorporation.

In his approval decision, Attorney General Neronha stated, "Public media contributes uniquely and substantially to the quality of life in Rhode Island, and its ongoing vitality is critical. For many Rhode Islanders, PBS and The Public's Radio have been important local sources of media and as a new combined entity, they will be able to sustain the value they contribute to our state. I would like to recognize those involved in this transaction – public stakeholders, the parties, and our team in the office who reviewed the transaction – for their attention and efforts throughout this process."

With this important milestone completed, the two organizations can officially start the process of coming together to create even more dynamic stories, delivered across more channels. A newly-created joint board, in collaboration with staff, will begin to bring their two operations

and administration together and anticipate launching an inclusive community engagement process in late 2024. In the short term, audiences will continue to see and hear the same great content they have come to expect from Rhode Island PBS and The Public's Radio.