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***Former Senior Advisor to HUD Secretary, Massachusetts Red Cross CEO join
Preservation of Affordable Housing Board***

BOSTON- Estelle Richman, former Senior Advisor to the Secretary for the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development and Jarrett Barrios, CEO of the American Red Cross of Eastern Massachusetts have joined the Board of Directors of Preservation of Affordable Housing (POAH), a nonprofit developer of affordable housing that owns and operates more than 8,000 affordable apartments in nine states and the District of Columbia.

Richman has an extensive background in public service - as the Acting Deputy Secretary and Chief Operating Officer of HUD and before that as Secretary of the Pennsylvania Department of Public Welfare. Most recently, Richman was named Philadelphia Housing Authority Board Chair to oversee operations of the agency when it was under federal receivership for two years. She helped install a new management team and procedures that moved the agency forward and restored its credibility.

As Senior Advisor to the Secretary of HUD, Richman provided oversight and management over the intersection between housing and social services and advised on the HUD budget. Richman had also served in many other capacities for the City of Philadelphia: Managing Director for the City; Director of Social Services; Commissioner of Public Health; Deputy Commissioner for Mental Health, Mental Retardation and Substance Abuse Services.

As Senior Advisor to the Secretary of HUD, Richman provided oversight and management over the intersection between housing and social services and advice on HUD's budget. A nationally recognized expert on issues of behavioral health and children's services, Richman has been honored for advocacy efforts by the National Alliance on Mental Illness, the American Psychiatric Association and the American Medical Association. She is the recipient of the 1998 Ford Foundation/Good Housekeeping Award for Women in Government and the Innovations in American Government Award from the Kennedy School at Harvard University.

Jarrett Barrios served in the Massachusetts House of Representatives and Senate for nine years. In the House he authored legislation creating the state low-income housing tax credit and a statewide affordable housing trust which provide incentives for developers to create affordable housing. In the Senate, he authored a law designed to protect homeowners from foreclosure and to crack down on unscrupulous subprime lenders. In the State Senate, Barrios authored a law designed to protect homeowners from foreclosure and to crack down on unscrupulous subprime lenders. The law created a first-in-the-nation requirement that mortgage bankers and brokers abide by the state Community Reinvestment Act, which previously applied only to credit unions and banks.

Before beginning public service, Barrios practiced law at Hill & Barlow focusing on commercial real estate and affordable housing tax syndication. After leaving the legislature, he served as the president and CEO of the Blue Cross Blue Shield of Massachusetts Foundation and the Gay & Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation.

“The POAH Board is extremely honored to welcome both of these individuals,” said Board Chairman Herbert Morse. Estelle's deep experience in human services along with her work at HUD, which views housing as a platform for improving a wide range of outcomes will help us advance our organization's mission in this direction. Jarrett Barrios also brings affordable housing expertise and a lifetime of advocacy against discrimination and for social justice and humanitarian causes

includes protecting the rights of the disabled and low income persons – two populations we serve.”

Preservation of Affordable Housing (POAH) is a nonprofit organization whose mission is to preserve and steward affordable rental housing to provide stability, hope and economic security to low- and moderate-income individuals and families. POAH has rescued and restored some of America’s most ‘at risk’ rental housing. POAH is known nationally for its ability to develop innovative financing structures and to close complex deals which preserve long-term housing affordability for seniors, individuals with disabilities and families priced out of the housing market. POAH has also successfully influenced a range of public policies to address the nation’s housing preservation challenges.