



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

October 17, 2023

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**Paul Gagne of BankRI Appointed President for
Valley Affordable Housing Corporation Board of Directors**

Cumberland-based nonprofit develops and manages affordable housing for families and seniors

PROVIDENCE, R.I. – Paul Gagne, who leads the Bank Rhode Island (BankRI) branch in Woonsocket, has been appointed president of the Board of Directors for [Valley Affordable Housing Corporation](#). He assumed the role as of October 1, 2023, and previously served on the nonprofit’s Board as a director.

The Cumberland-based organization acquires, develops, and manages affordable housing for families and seniors in Rhode Island and elsewhere. It is governed by a nine member, all-volunteer Board of Directors.

“The work of Valley Affordable Housing is particularly meaningful for me. When I was young, I saw how hard my mother worked and the sacrifices she made to keep a roof over our heads,” said Paul. “Housing, and specifically the availability of safe, affordable housing, is a major issue in our state and this role offers me a chance to help my community around a very important need.”

A certified 501c(3), Valley Affordable Housing Corporation, or VAHC, was established more than twenty years ago with the mission to increase the number of safe and suitable affordable housing properties for income qualifying individuals. As a nonprofit, its projects are eligible for special financing sources that include State and Federal Historic Tax Credits, HUD grants, and HOME Program funds. VAHC has received numerous recognitions for its developments, both new construction and historic restoration and renovation projects. Among those to recognize VAHC are Preserve Rhode Island, the Statewide Trust for Historic Preservation, and the Rhode Island Historic Preservation and Heritage Commission.

“With Paul’s appointment as chair, he brings a fresh approach to how we operate and new insights for the direction we want to take the organization’s work,” said Cherise Miller, ARM, CPO, Director of Property Management, Valley Affordable Housing Corp. “His dedication to our mission and to helping families in need is unmistakable and we look forward to what is in store.”

“A safe place to live is our most basic need, and I have seen first-hand the impact Valley Affordable Housing has on the tenants who call their units home,” added Paul. “My vision is to continue to grow and add more homes, and for us to be seen as an affordable housing leader in New England.”

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About Bank Rhode Island

Bank Rhode Island, a wholly owned subsidiary of Brookline Bancorp, Inc. (NASDAQ:BRKL), is a full-service, FDIC-insured financial institution headquartered in Providence, Rhode Island. The bank operates 21 branches and more than 30 ATMs throughout Providence, Kent, Newport and Washington Counties. For more information, visit www.bankri.com.