

## TOWNSHIP OF LAWRENCE PLANNING BOARD

### RESOLUTION 16-25 APPROVING AND ADOPTING A HOUSING ELEMENT AND FAIR SHARE PLAN TO SATISFY THE TOWNSHIP'S FOURTH ROUND AFFORDABLE HOUSING OBLIGATION

**WHEREAS**, on March 20, 2024, Governor Murphy signed into law P.L.2024, c.2, establishing a new framework for determining and enforcing municipalities' affordable housing obligations under the New Jersey Supreme Court's Mount Laurel doctrine and the New Jersey Fair Housing Act (the "FHA") (N.J.S.A. 52:27D-301, *et al.*); and

**WHEREAS**, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 52:27D-304.1(f)(1)(b), each municipality was to adopt a binding resolution no later than January 31, 2025, determining its present and prospective fair share obligation for the Fourth Round of Affordable Housing Obligations ("Fourth Round"); and

**WHEREAS**, the Township Council of Lawrence Township ("Township") adopted Resolution No. 73-25 on January 21, 2025, identifying its present and prospective fair share obligations for the Fourth Round as follows:

<b>Present Need:</b>	<b>68</b>
<b>Prospective Need:</b>	<b>320</b>

**WHEREAS**, in accordance with the FHA and Administrative Directive #14-24, issued by the Administrative Office of the Courts on December 13, 2024 ("Directive #14-24"), the Township filed a Complaint for Declaratory Judgment ("DJ Action"), *In the Matter of the Declaratory Judgment Action of Lawrence Township, Mercer County Pursuant to P.L. 2024, Chapter 2*, Docket No. MER-L-158-25 on January 23, 2025, identifying its present and prospective fair share obligations for the Fourth Round as set forth above, and committing to adopting and submitting a Fourth Round Housing Element and Fair Share Plan ("HEFSP") as required by the FHA; and

**WHEREAS**, on March 25, 2025, the Hon. Robert Lougy, A.J.S.C., issued an Order Fixing Municipal Obligations for "Present Need" and "Prospective Need" for the Fourth Round in accordance with the obligations as set forth above, and authorizing the Township to proceed with preparation and adoption of its proposed HEFSP; and

**WHEREAS**, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 52:27D-304.1(f)(2)(a) and Directive #14-24, each municipality must adopt and file as part of its DJ Action a HEFSP, and propose drafts of the appropriate zoning and other ordinances and resolutions to implement its present and prospective obligations, no later than June 30, 2025; and

**WHEREAS**, the Township Planning Board Planner, Kyle + McManus Associates (Elizabeth K. McManus, PP, AICP, LEED AP), has drafted a Fourth Round HEFSP; and

**WHEREAS**, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40:55D-28, the Lawrence Township Planning Board, in its capacity as a Planning Board (“Board”), may prepare and adopt or amend a master plan or component parts thereof, after a public hearing, to guide the use of lands within the municipality in a manner which protects health and safety and promotes the general welfare; and

**WHEREAS**, upon notice duly provided pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40:55D-13, the Township of Lawrence Planning Board (the “Board”) held a public hearing on the 2025 Fourth Round HEFSP on June 16, 2025, during which the Fourth Round HEFSP was presented to the Board and public, and opportunity for comments and questions were provided; and

**WHEREAS**, upon the conclusion of the public hearing, the Board determined that the proposed Fourth Round HEFSP is consistent with the goals and objectives of the Master Plan of the Township, will guide the use of lands in the municipality in a manner which protects public health and safety and promotes the general welfare in accordance with N.J.S.A. 40:55D-28, and is designed to achieve the goal of access to affordable housing to meet present and prospective housing needs in accordance with N.J.S.A. 52:27D-310; and

**WHEREAS**, the Board now wishes to memorialize its adoption of the proposed Fourth Round HEFSP and request that the Township Council endorse the adopted HEFSP, in accordance with the FHA and Directive #14-24;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Lawrence Township Planning Board, as follows:

1. The Board hereby approves and adopts the Fourth Round Housing Element and Fair Share Plan annexed hereto as **Exhibit A**;
2. The Board Secretary is hereby authorized and directed to transmit a copy of the adopted Fourth Round HEFSP and a certified copy of this Resolution to the Township Clerk and Township Council of Lawrence Township, together with this Board’s request that the Township Council endorse the adopted Fourth Round HEFSP;
3. The Board Secretary is hereby authorized and directed to provide a copy of the adopted Fourth Round HEFSP and a certified copy of this Resolution to the Mercer County Planning Board and New Jersey Office of Planning Advocacy, in accordance with N.J.S.A. 40:55D-13.
4. This Resolution shall take effect immediately.

**[Remainder of Page Intentionally Left Blank]**

Board Member	Motion	Second	Yea	Nay	Abstain	Absent
Leggett (Chair)			x			
Connolly (Vice Chair)			x			
Farmer (Mayor)			x			
Nerwinski		x	x			
Perry						x
Dember						x
Di Sciullo						x
Duran			x			
Loveless	x		x			
Hendricks (Alt #1)			x			
Scipio (Alt #2)						x

I hereby certify that the above is a true copy of a resolution adopted by the Township of Lawrence Planning Board at a public meeting held June 16, 2025.



James F. Parvesse, Secretary  
Lawrence Township Planning Board

**ATTACHMENT(S):** Exhibit A, Lawrence Township Fourth Round Housing Element and Fair Share Plan.