

TOWN OF HACKETTSTOWN, WARREN COUNTY**RESOLUTION# 2025-58****RESOLUTION ENDORSING THE HOUSING ELEMENT AND FAIR SHARE PLAN
ADOPTED BY THE LAND USE BOARD**

WHEREAS, on March 20, 2024, Governor Murphy signed P.L.2024, c.2. into law, 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 must adopt a binding resolution no later than January 31, 2025 determining its present and prospective fair share obligation for the Fourth Round; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to Administrative Directive #14-24 issued by the Administrative Office of the Courts on December 13, 2024, "[a] municipality seeking a certification of compliance with the [Fair Housing Act] shall file an action in the form of a declaratory judgment complaint and Civil Case Information Statement (Civil CIS) in the county in which the municipality is located" within 48 hours of adopting the municipal resolution of fair share obligations; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Hackettstown (the "Town") adopted a binding resolution on January 30, 2025 identifying its present and prospective fair share obligation for the Fourth Round; and

WHEREAS, the Town filed a Declaratory Judgement on January 31, 2025, captioned *IMO Town of Hackettstown*, Docket No. WRN-L-63-25, identifying its present and prospective fair share obligation for the Fourth Round and committing to adopting and submitting a fourth round housing element and fair share plan as required by the FHA; and

WHEREAS, the New Jersey Builder's Association ("NJBA") filed a challenge to the Declaratory Judgment Action; and

WHEREAS, the Affordable Housing Dispute Resolution Program held a settlement conference on March 26, 2025 presided over by the Honorable Thomas C. Miller, A.J.S.C. (ret.); and

WHEREAS, Elizabeth McManus, P.P. served as the Special Adjudicator at the Settlement Conference; and

WHEREAS, NJBA and the Town reached a settlement agreement during the Settlement Conference, which was placed on the record and endorsed by Judge Miller and Special Adjudicator McManus setting the Town's Fourth Round Affordable Housing Obligations as follows:

Present Need: 87

Prospective Need: 102

WHEREAS, the Court entered an Order on April 8, 2025 approving such settlement and authorizing the Town to proceed with preparation and adoption of a fourth round housing plan by June 30, 2025;

WHEREAS, upon notice duly provided pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40:44D-13, the Land Use Board held a public hearing on the Fourth Round Housing Element and Fair Share Plan (the "HEFSP") on June 24, 2025 and adopted the HEFSP on the same day; and

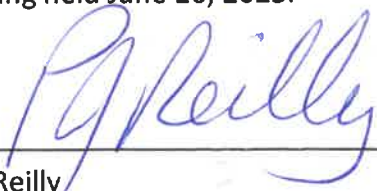
WHEREAS, a true copy of the HEFSP and the resolution of the Land Use Board adopting the HEFSP is attached hereto as Exhibit A; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Hackettstown Council wishes to endorse the HEFSP and seeks approval of the HEFSP from the Court.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Mayor and Council of the Town of Hackettstown, Hunterdon County, New Jersey, as follows:

1. That it hereby endorses the Housing Element and Fair Share Plan, as adopted by the Town of Hackettstown Land Use Board on June 24, 2025 via the resolution, attached hereto as part of Exhibit A.
2. That it authorizes and directs its professionals to file with the Court (i) the Housing Element and Fair Share Plan, (ii) the resolution of the Land Use Board adopting and the Town Council endorsing the Housing Element and Fair Share Plan, and (iii) any additional documents the professionals deem necessary or desirable.
3. That it reserves the right to amend the Housing Element and Fair Share Plan, should that be necessary.
4. This Resolution shall take effect immediately.

CERTIFICATION: It is hereby certified that this is a true and correct copy of a resolution adopted by the governing body of the Town of Hackettstown at a meeting held June 26, 2025.



PJ Reilly
Town Clerk/Administrator