

**MAURICE RIVER TOWNSHIP
CUMBERLAND COUNTY, NJ**

**RESOLUTION COMMITTING TO DCA'S FOURTH ROUND
AFFORDABLE HOUSING PRESENT NEED AND PROSPECTIVE NEED
NUMBERS**

RESOLUTION # 39

WHEREAS, on March 20, 2024, Governor Murphy signed into law an Amendment to the Fair Housing Act (N.J.S.A. 52:27D-301 *et seq.*) (hereinafter "Amended FHA"); and

WHEREAS, the Amended FHA requires the Department of Community Affairs ("DCA") to produce non-binding estimates of fair share obligations on or before October 20, 2024; and

WHEREAS, the DCA issued a report on October 18, 2024 ("DCA Report") wherein it reported its estimate of the obligation for all municipalities based upon its interpretation of the standards in the Amended FHA; and

WHEREAS, the DCA Report calculates Maurice River Township's Round 4 (2025-2035) obligations as follows: a Present Need or Rehabilitation Obligation of zero (0) and a Prospective Need or New Construction Obligation of eight (8); and

WHEREAS, the Amended FHA provides that the DCA Report is non-binding, thereby inviting municipalities to demonstrate that the Amended FHA would support lower calculations of Round 4 affordable housing obligations; and

WHEREAS, the Amended FHA further provides that "[a]ll parties shall be entitled to rely upon regulations on municipal credits, adjustments, and compliance mechanisms adopted by COAH unless those regulations are contradicted by statute, including P.L. 2024, c.2, or biding court decisions" (N.J.S.A. 52:27D-311(m)); and

WHEREAS, COAH regulations authorize vacant land adjustments as well as durational adjustments; and

WHEREAS, based on the foregoing, Maurice River Township accepts the DCA calculations of Maurice River Township's fair share obligations and commits to its fair share of zero (0) units present need and eight (8) units prospective need subject to any vacant land and/or durational adjustments it may seek as part of the Housing Plan element and Fair Share Plan element it subsequently submits in accordance with the Amended FHA; and

WHEREAS, Maurice River Township reserves the right to comply with any additional amendments to the FHA that the Legislature may enact; and

WHEREAS, Maurice River Township also reserves the right to adjust its position in the event of any rulings in the *Montvale* case (MER-L-1778-24) or any other such action that alters the deadlines and/or requirements of the Amended FHA; and

WHEREAS, in the event that a third party challenges the calculations provided for in this Resolution, Maurice River Township reserves the right to take such position as it deems appropriate in response thereto, including that its Round 4 Present or Prospective Need Obligations should be lower than described herein; and

WHEREAS, in light of the above, the Township Committee of Maurice River Township finds that it is in the best interest of Maurice River Township to declare its commitment to the obligations reported by the DCA on October 18, 2024 subject to the reservations set forth herein; and

WHEREAS, in addition to the above, the Acting Administrative Director issued Directive #14-24, dated December 13, 2024, and made the directive available later in the week that followed; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to Directive #14-24, a municipality seeking a certification of compliance with the FHA shall file an action in the form of a declaratory judgment complaint in the county in which the municipality is located within 48 hours after adoption of the municipal resolution of fair share obligations, or by February 3, 2025, whichever is sooner; and

WHEREAS, Maurice River Township seeks a certification of compliance with the FHA and, therefore, directs its municipal attorney to file a declaratory relief action within 48 hours of the adoption of this resolution in Cumberland County.


NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED on this 16th day of January, 2025 by the Township Committee of Maurice River Township as follows:

1. All of the above Whereas Clauses are incorporated into the operative clauses of this resolution.
2. Maurice River Township hereby commits to the DCA Round 4 Present Need Obligation of zero (0) units and the Round 4 Prospective Need Obligation of eight (8) units described in this resolution, subject to all reservations of rights set forth above.
3. Maurice River Township hereby directs its municipal attorney to file a declaratory judgment complaint in Cumberland County within 48 hours after adoption this resolution, attaching this resolution.
4. Maurice River Township authorizes its municipal attorney to attach this resolution as an exhibit to the declaratory judgment action that is filed and to submit and/or file this resolution with the Program or any other such entity as may be determined to be appropriate.
5. This resolution shall take effect immediately, according to law.

CERTIFICATION

I, Denise L. Peterson, Municipal Clerk of Maurice River Township, a Municipal Corporation of the State of New Jersey, located in the County of Cumberland, do hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and accurate copy of a Resolution adopted by the Township Committee of Maurice River Township at a regular meeting held in the Municipal Building, Leesburg, New Jersey, on Thursday, January 16, 2025 at 7:30 P.M.

SIGNED:


Denise L. Peterson, Municipal Clerk