



West Amwell Township
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RESOLUTION #35-2025

WEST AMWELL TOWNSHIP HUNTERDON COUNTY, NEW JERSEY

RESOLUTION REGARDING FAIR SHARE AFFORDABLE HOUSING OBLIGATIONS FOR THE FOURTH ROUND

WHEREAS, the New Jersey Supreme Court, through its rulings in Southern Burlington County NAACP v. Mount Laurel, 67 13 N.J. 151 (1975) and Southern Burlington County NAACP 14 v. Mount Laurel, 92 N.J. 158 (1983), has determined that every municipality in New Jersey has a constitutional obligation to provide through its land use regulations a realistic opportunity for its fair share of its region’s present and prospective needs for housing for low- and moderate-income families; and

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 (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, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 52:27D-304.1(d), the New Jersey Department of Community Affairs issued “a report on the calculations of regional need and municipal obligations for each region of the State” on or about October 18, 2024 (the “DCA Report”); and

WHEREAS, the DCA Report calculated the municipal obligation for West Amwell Township as follows:

Present Need: 0
Prospective Need: 39

WHEREAS, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 52:27D-304.1(f)(1)(a), a municipality must determine its present and prospective fair share obligation for affordable housing consistent with the established methodologies; and

WHEREAS, the Township accepts the calculations set forth in the DCA Report as consistent with the established methodologies, subject to the ability to adjust such numbers consistent with applicable regulations, etc.; and

WHEREAS, the Township specifically reserves its rights to:

Adjust the Township's fair share obligations based on a Vacant Land Adjustment, a lack of public water or sewer infrastructure (i.e. a Durational Adjustment), a survey pertaining to present need pursuant to N.J.A.C. 5:93-5.2(a) and N.J.A.C. 5:93-Appendix C), and / or all other applicable adjustments, permitted in accordance with applicable statute, regulations or law; and

Revoke or amend this Resolution and the Township's Fourth Round Affordable Housing Obligations to account for decisions of a court of competent jurisdiction or a change in applicable legislation; and

The right to take any contrary position, or adjust its Fourth Round Affordable Housing Obligations, in the event of a third-party challenge to the Township's Fourth Round Affordable Housing Obligations.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Mayor and Committee of the Township of West Amwell, Hunterdon County, New Jersey, as follows:

West Amwell Township hereby determines, based on the DCA Report and advice of the Municipal Planner and Attorney, to accept the DCA Report as calculating the Township's Fourth Round Affordable Housing Obligations as follows:

Present Need: 0

Prospective Need: 39

The adoption of this Resolution and the aforementioned Fourth Round Affordable Housing Obligations is subject to all reservations of rights, which specifically include, without limitation, the following:

The right to adjust the Township's fair share obligations based on a Vacant Land Adjustment, a lack of public water or sewer infrastructure (i.e. a Durational Adjustment), a survey pertaining to present need pursuant to N.J.A.C. 5:93-5.2(a) and N.J.A.C. 5:93-Appendix C), and / or all other applicable adjustments, permitted in accordance with applicable statute, regulations or law with such adjustments to be adopted as part of the municipality's Fourth Round Housing Element and Fair Share Plan.; and

The right to revoke or amend this Resolution and the Township's Fourth Round Affordable Housing Obligations to account for decisions of a court of competent jurisdiction or a change in applicable legislation; and

The right to take any contrary position, or adjust its Fourth Round Affordable Housing Obligations, in the event of a third-party challenge to the Township's Fourth Round Affordable Housing Obligations.

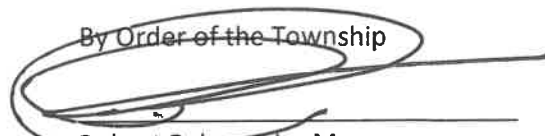
The Municipal Clerk and Municipal Attorney are authorized to take all actions required by N.J.S.A. 52:27D-304.1(f)(1)(b), including:

Filing a declaratory judgement action with the Superior Court and filing a copy of this Resolution with the Department of Community Affairs within forty-eight hours following adoption of this Resolution.

Publishing this Resolution on the Township's website.

The Affordable Housing Attorney, Municipal Planner, and Affordable Housing Subcommittee are authorized to take all actions to draft documents necessary to comply with all Fourth Round affordable housing obligations, including drafting a Housing Element and Fair Share Plan, an Affordable Housing Trust Spending Plan, and effectuating ordinances and resolutions.

This Resolution shall take effect immediately.

By Order of the Township

Robert Balaam, Jr., Mayor

Certification

I hereby certify the foregoing to be a true copy of a Resolution adopted by the Mayor and Committee of West Amwell Township at a meeting held on January 29, 2025.


Maria Andrews, Township Clerk, RMC